68 PAGES
NO ADS FROM COVER TO COVER!
DC
FLASH ★ WONDER WOMAN ★ DEADMAN ★ AQUAMAN
★ THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA ★
5 ALL-NEW SUPER-STAR FEATURES
AUGUST, 1979
$1.00
NO. 464
ADVENTURE COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WE MUST RELEASE HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS US ALL!
TOO LATE, YOU FOOLS! NOW I CAN'T STOP!
RIM PARO
C-100
IN THIS ISSUE:
A DOUBLE-LENGTH DEADMAN THRILLER:
"REQUIEM FOR A DEADMAN"

DATELINE:
ADVENTURE®
FEATURING
The FLASH
AQUAMAN
A POWER FAILURE PLUNGES ATLANTIS INTO DARKNESS AND AQUAMAN MUST STOP THE--
"INVADERS FROM ABOVE" PG.57
WONDER WOMAN
SSSLAASH
THE AMAZON PRINCESS MUST FIGHT A BATTLE DEEP WITHIN THE CELLS OF HER BODY--OR DIE!
"SLAVE OF THE QUEEN BEE"
PG.45
THE JUSTICE SOCIETY
SHOULD WILDCAT QUIT WHILE HE'S AHEAD?
"TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON"
PG.37
DEADMAN IS SUMMONED TO A SEANCE AND ENCOUNTERS THE OMNIPATH!!
"REQUIEM FOR A DEADMAN"
PG. 14

A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SHATTERED A CABINET OF CHEMICALS--CHANGING POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE --
The FLASH
YOU MAY BE THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE ON A NORMAL DAY, FLASH--
--BUT TODAY YOUR CENTRAL CITY IS MY DOMAIN--
--AND YOU CAN'T EVEN LET YOUR NOSE RUN WITHOUT TRIPPING OVER IT!
ABRA KADABRA IS RIGHT! UPSIDE-DOWN--
--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO COORDINATE MY SUPER-SPEED!
A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL FROM THE FAR-FLUNG FUTURE JOURNEYS OVER FORTY CENTURIES INTO THE PAST... AND 1979! BUT WHAT, FLASH ASKS HIMSELF, WHAT COULD CENTRAL CITY CONTAIN THAT WOULD INTEREST SUCH AN ADVANCED FELON FROM ANOTHER TIME-ERA?
WHAT INDEED IS THE MOTIVE FOR...
"The DAY UP WAS DOWN"
WRITER: CARY BATES
PENCILLER: DON HECK
INKER: JOE GIELLA
COLORIST: GENE D'ANGELO
LETTERER: BEN ODA
EDITOR: ROSS ANDRU
J-5965

ADVENTURE COMICS ®, Vol. 45, No. 464, July/Aug., 1979. Published bi-monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1979 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. (212) 391-1400

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737. Annual subscription rate $7.65. Outside U.S.A. $8.65

Jenette Kahn, Publisher
Joe Orlando, Managing Editor
Ross Andru, Editor
Jack Adler, Vice-Pres. Production
Vince Colletta, Art Director
Paul Levitz, Editorial Coordinator

Sol Harrison, President
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

A PHONE BOOTH IN CENTRAL CITY PARK -- AND A MAN WITH A PURPOSE...
HOW CRUDE! I WAS EXPECTING SOME SORT OF COMPUTERIZED DIRECTORY GUIDE--
--BUT I TEND TO FORGET HOW BACKWARD THE 20TH CENTURY WAS...
ER... IS!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ABRA KADABRA IS HIS NAME--AND THE 64TH CENTURY IS HIS TRUE HOME!
ONCE AGAIN HE HAS IMPLEMENTED HIS ULTRA-ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO JOURNEY 44 CENTURIES INTO THE PAST...
...FOR YET ANOTHER ENCORE APPEARANCE IN HIS FAVORITE TOWN -- CENTRAL CITY!
NOW I KNOW WHERE TO FIND WHAT I SEEK!
ALL RIGHT, SIR -- YOU'D BETTER HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
I SAW THAT -- AND UNLESS YOU WANT TO PAY A $25 FINE FOR LITTERING, I SUGGEST YOU PICK UP THAT WAD OF PAPER!
WHY, HELLO THERE, OFFICER!
TELL ME, YOUNG MAN... WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO BE NEW AT YOUR JOB?
ACTUALLY, I JUST GOT OUT OF THE POLICE ACADEMY! THIS IS MY FIRST WEEK ON THE FORCE!
AH! SOMEHOW I SUSPECTED AS MUCH...
...SINCE YOU OBVIOUSLY DO NOT KNOW WHO I AM!
2

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF!
YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF ABRA KADABRA--
MAGICIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE OF THE 64TH CENTURY!
OOOFF! NOW JUST HOLD ON A MINUTE! TH-THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WHEN YOU ARE WITNESSING THE WONDERS OF 64TH CENTURY SCIENCE, DEAR BOY--
--YOU WILL SOON COME TO REALIZE NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!
AND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME... ASK MY OLD FRIEND THE FLASH!
A HALF HOUR LATER-- CENTRAL CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
LOOK OUT, EVERYBODY-- I'M COMING THROUGH!
WHOA THERE, FELLA! THIS IS A POLICE STATION, NOT A PAPER MILL!
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, SARGE? IT'S PATROLMAN TED WENTWORTH!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE ENCOUNTER I HAD IN THE PARK WITH A GUY WHO CALLED HIMSELF ABRA KADABRA...
AND AFTER THE YOUNG ROOKIE COP HAS RECOUNTED THE INCREDIBLE DETAILS...
...SO I FIGURED I SHOULD BRING IN THE GIANT WAD FOR... EVIDENCE!
GOOD THINKING, WENTWORTH! WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH IT--PUT IT UNDER OBSERVATION?
ALSO ON HAND AT THE MOMENT--STAFF POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN...
3

...A DILIGENT WORKER WITH A REPUTATION FOR BEING HABITUALLY *SLOW* AND *LAZY*-- IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT *SECRETLY* HE HAPPENS TO BE *THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE!*

POOR WENTWORTH! THERE'S NOTHING *FUNNY* ABOUT A CRIMINAL AS *DANGEROUS* AS MY OLD NEMESIS *ABRA KADABRA*--

--BUT THE GUYS WILL NEVER LET HIM LIVE THAT *GIANT WAD* BIT DOWN!

...AND EYEWITNESSES SAY *ABRA KADABRA* IS ARROGANTLY STROLLING TOWARD THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK--*FORCING* POLICE AND CITIZENS ALIKE TO *APPLAUD* AS HE PASSES!

TIME TO GET DOWN TO *SERIOUS BUSINESS!*

SOUNDS LIKE *ABRA'S* BIZARRE *HUNGER* FOR APPRECIATION AND *APPLAUSE* IS AS STRONG AS EVER!

AS HE'S DONE COUNTLESS TIMES *BEFORE*, THE YOUNG SCIENTIST PRESSES THE BUTTON THAT *EJECTS* HIS COMPRESSED *SCARLET UNIFORM* FROM THE *SECRET COMPARTMENT* IN HIS *RING*...

ONLY *THIS TIME* THERE IS ONE UTTERLY *INCOMPREHENSIBLE DIFFERENCE* WHEN THE COSTUME EMERGES AND *EXPANDS* UPON *AIR-CONTACT*...

...AN INCREDIBLY *ABSURD* DIFFERENCE!

I DON'T... *UNDERSTAND!* NORMALLY I CAN MANAGE THIS *COSTUME-CHANGE* IN MERE *HUNDREDTHS* OF A SECOND!

BUT *TODAY* IT'S TAKING ME A *FULL THREE SECONDS!*

AND WHEN THE *SCARLET SPEEDSTER* EFFORTLESSLY *VIBRATES* HIS VERY ATOMS THROUGH THE *WALL* AND INTO THE AFTERNOON AIR...

SHADES OF *ISAAC NEWTON!*

NO WONDER MY SPEED-COORDINATION IS *DISORIENTED*--

--*CENTRAL CITY* AND I SEEM TO HAVE SOMETHING IN *COMMON*-- WE'RE *BOTH UPSIDE-DOWN!*

WHAT I'M SEEING IS *BEYOND BELIEF*... AND YET... THE *RESULTS* ARE EVERYWHERE I *LOOK!*

4

CLAP CLAP

I DON'T NEED THE DEDUCTIVE BRAINS OF A *BATMAN* TO TELL ME THIS *TOPSY-TURVY EFFECT* SHOWS THE DISTINCTIVE *HANDIWORK* OF A *KADABRA* STUNT!

YET UNEXPECTEDLY--AS IF *FOREWARNED* BY AN UNCANNY SIXTH SENSE...

SO, OLD FOE-- I SEE YOU ARE EVER ON THE ALERT, AS ALWAYS!

IT APPEARS I'VE FORGOTTEN THE PROPER TERMINOLOGY FOR THESE *GROWING SPHERES* COMING YOUR WAY!

MARBLES!

ABRA'S USING HIS *ULTRA-SCIENCE* TO *ENLARGE* THAT KID'S MARBLES JUST ENOUGH TO *TRIP ME UP*--

--AND IN MY CURRENT *UPSIDE-DOWN* FRAME OF MIND--

--I'M IN *NO CONDITION* TO REGAIN MY SENSE OF BALANCE IN TIME TO AVOID A *FALL!*

NYGHHHHH!

EASY, BOY ... *EASY!*

BUT JUST AS THE SPEEDSTER SLIDES TO A *STOP*...

UHH... I THOUGHT I'D TAKE AT LEAST A *SECOND* OR TWO TO CATCH MY BREATH--

--BUT SOMEHOW AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT--

--*STAYING STILL* DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE *SMART THING* TO DO!

I KNOW JUST HOW THAT HORSE FEELS!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN ENTIRE CITY TO BE TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN--
--MY WILY FOE HAS CREATED A MASS HYPNOTIC ILLUSION THAT COMPELS EVERYONE TO PERCEIVE UP AS DOWN -- AND VICE-VERSA!
LOGICALLY, THIS STUNT IS DESIGNED AS A DISTRACTION--
--TO KEEP ME AND THE REST OF THE CITY DISORIENTED--
--WHILE ABRA GOES ABOUT HIS TRUE PURPOSE HERE IN 1979!
IF ONLY I HAD SOME IDEA WHAT HE WAS AFTER!
ICE CREAM
AN ICE CREAM CONE, MY GOOD MAN--WITH A SINGLE SCOOP OF THE FLAVOR YOU CALL VANILLA!
W-WISH I COULD OBLIGE YOU, BUD...BUT THIS DOWN-UP NONSENSE HAS SHOT MY NERVES!
NOW WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT YOUR NERVES?
?!? N-NOTHING, MISTER... NOTHING AT ALL! I GUESS I'M AT THE AGE WHERE I OUGHTA EXPECT TO HAVE SOME O' THEM DELUSIONS YOU READ ABOUT!
FOR A FEW MINUTES THERE I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS... NEVER MIND!
TAKE YOUR VANILLA CONE, MISTER! IT'S ON THE HOUSE!
HOW KIND OF YOU, SIR! I'M MOST APPRECIATIVE--
--JUST AS I CAN SEE YOU ARE EQUALLY APPRECIATIVE OF ALL THIS SO-CALLED "DOWN-UP NONSENSE"!
HAVE A NICE DAY...
IT'S HIM-- HE'S DOING IT! SO WHY CAN'T I STOP APPLAUDING?
6

AT THAT MOMENT--IN A *PLAYGROUND* NOT FAR FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

WHAT I'M *ABOUT* TO DO MAY SEEM TO BE A FAR CRY FROM MORTAL *COMBAT* WITH *ABRA KADABRA*--

--BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

...THE BASIC SKILLS OF *BASKETBALL* ARE *EXCELLENT* FOR *REGAINING* THE *REFLEXES* AND *COORDINATION* THIS *UPSIDE-DOWN* WORLD TOOK AWAY FROM ME!

THANKS TO THE WONDER OF *SUPER-SPEED*--

--IN MERE *MOMENTS* I CAN *CONDENSE* WHAT WOULD BE *MONTHS* OF *PRACTICE* FOR A *NORMAL MAN*--

--UNTIL I'M AN *OLD PRO* WHEN IT COMES TO *UPSIDE-DOWN SUPER-SPEED MANEUVERING!*

AND ASTOUNDINGLY, AFTER SEVERAL MORE MINUTES OF WHIRLWIND *SCARLET ACTION*...

WHEW! AM I *BEAT!*

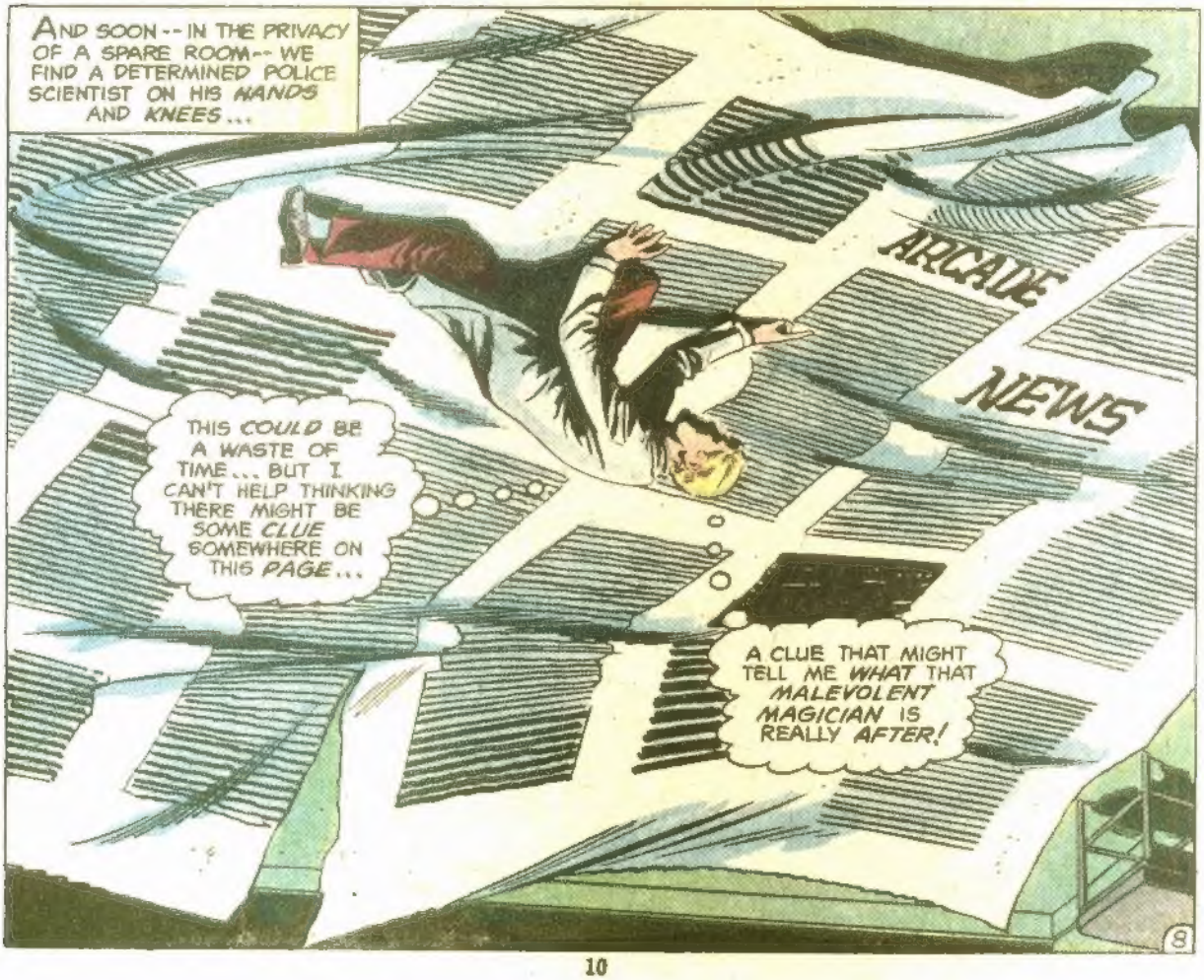
BEFORE I RESUME SEARCHING FOR *ABRA KADABRA* I NEED TO TAKE A BREATHER--

--*OUT* OF UNIFORM!

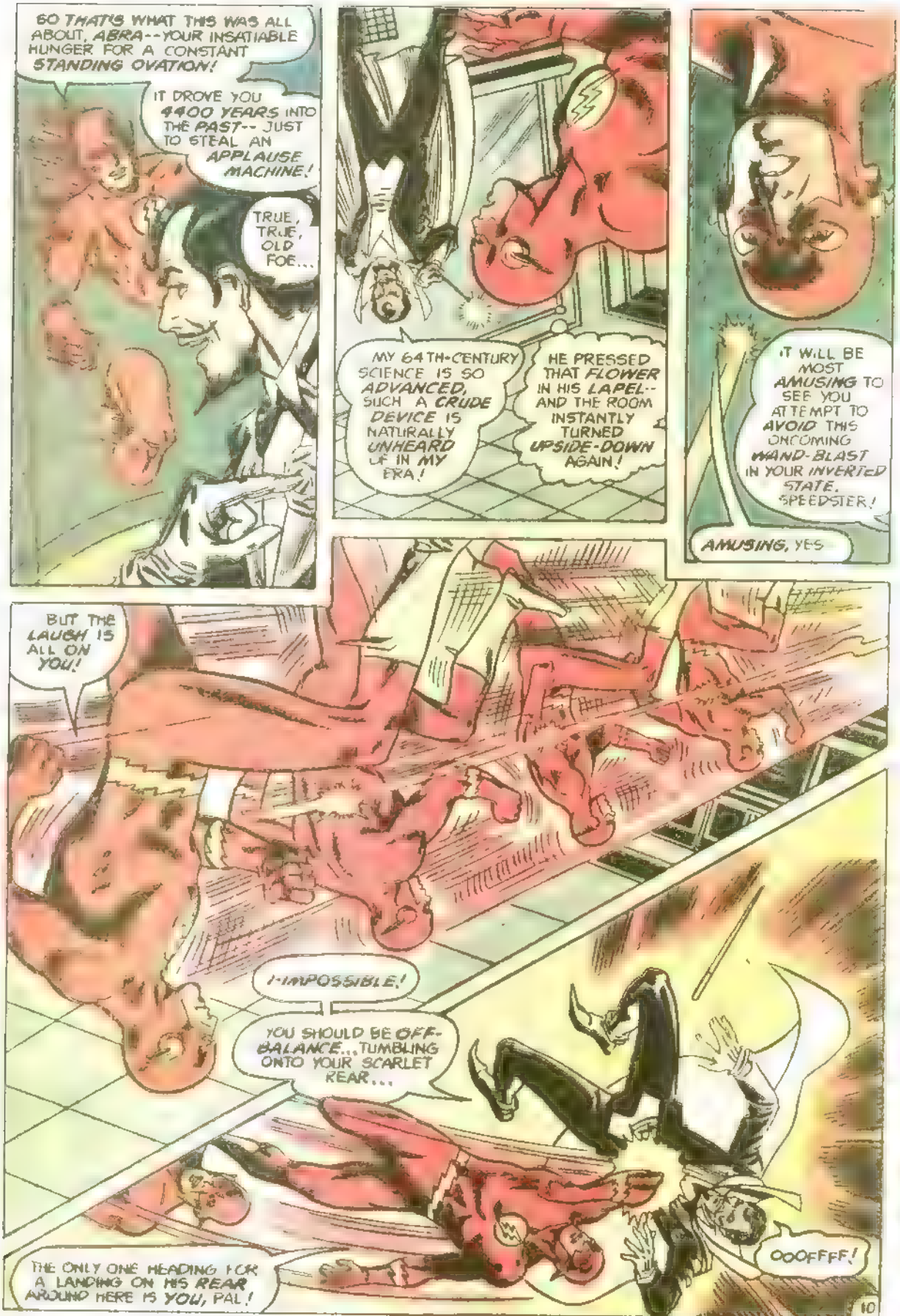
HOW GOES IT, WENTWORTH? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL DOWN BECAUSE OF YOUR RUN-IN WITH KADABRA!
THE DESK SERGEANT REALLY CHEWED ME OUT AFTER YOU LEFT, BARRY--
JUST BECAUSE I WAS THOROUGH ENOUGH TO BRING IN THAT GIANT WAD FROM THE WHITE PAGES!

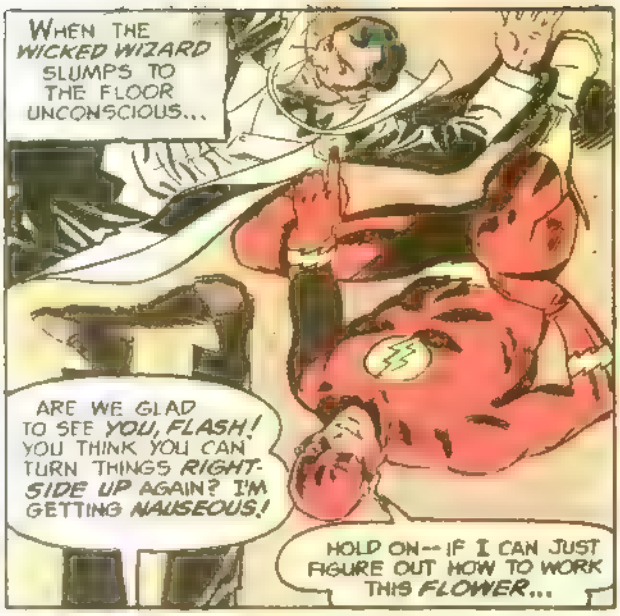
WHITE PAGES!? THAT WAD CAME FROM A PAGE ABRA KADABRA TORE OUT OF THE PHONE BOOK? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
WHERE'S THE WAD NOW?
I DUNNO... ON ITS WAY TO THE INCINERATOR, I GUESS! WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

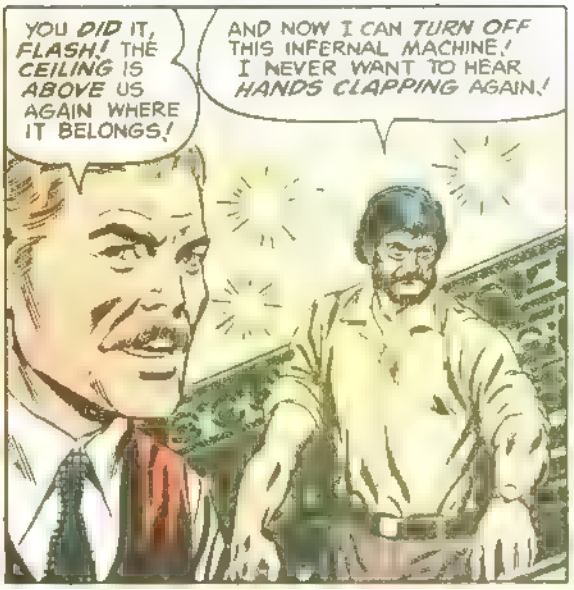
FOUR FRANTIC SECONDS LATER-- IN THE BASEMENT LEVEL OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
STOP! DON'T BURN THAT WAD!
?!? WHAT DID HE SAY?
THIS UPSIDE-DOWN BUSINESS HAS GOT EVERYONE ACTING CRAZY!


AND SOON -- IN THE PRIVACY OF A SPARE ROOM -- WE FIND A DETERMINED POLICE SCIENTIST ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES...
ARCADE NEWS
THIS COULD BE A WASTE OF TIME... BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING THERE MIGHT BE SOME CLUE SOMEWHERE ON THIS PAGE...
A CLUE THAT MIGHT TELL ME WHAT THAT MALEVOLENT MAGICIAN IS REALLY AFTER!
8

WAITAMINNIT! HERE'S SOMETHING--
A GIANT INDENTATION IN THE PAGE... AS IF IT WAS LEFT BY SOMEONE'S PROBING FINGER--
--DIRECTLY OVER THE LISTING FOR A LOCAL TV STATION!
FACE IT, CHET! A LIVE AUDIENCE JUST ISN'T IN THE MOOD TO LAUGH AND APPLAUD WHEN THEY'RE UPSIDE-DOWN!
THEN SEND THEM HOME! WE CAN TAPE "DUNKING FOR DOLLARS" WITHOUT THEM AND STILL HAVE PLENTY OF APPLAUSE--
--THANKS TO OUR EVER-TRUSTY LITTLE MACHINE OVER THERE!
OUR "CANNED" APPLAUSE SOUNDS JUST AS CONVINCING AS THE REAL THING!
YOU'RE RIGHT, B.P.! THE AUDIENCE AT HOME CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE ANYWAY!
I SINCERELY HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT, GENTLEMEN...OTHERWISE THIS STRENUOUS JOURNEY HAS BEEN ALL FOR NAUGHT!
HUH? WE'RE RIGHT-SIDE UP AGAIN!
WHO ARE YOU?
THE SOUND OF APPLAUSE-- ELECTRONICALLY AMPLIFIED AND REVERBERATED!
NOW I KNOW I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK!
9
TURN IT OFF! YOU'VE GOT THE VOLUME UP ALL THE WAY!
IT'S DEAFENING!
CLAP
CLAP
ON THE CONTRARY-- IT'S HEAVENLY!

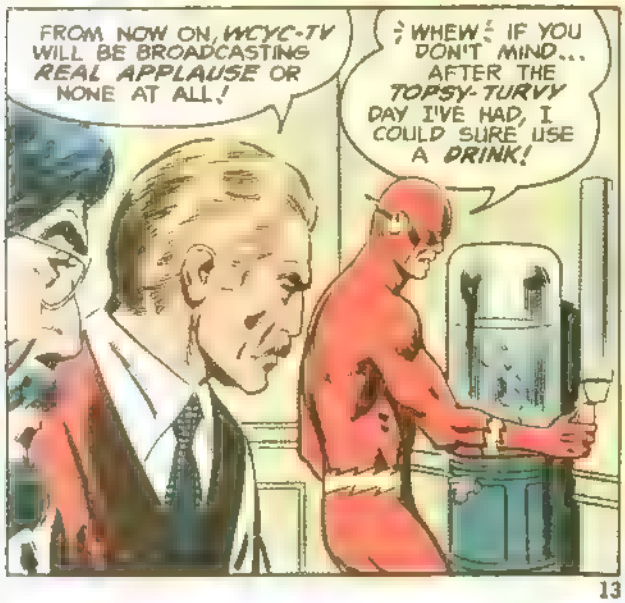

SO THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT, ABRA--YOUR INSATIABLE HUNGER FOR A CONSTANT STANDING OVATION!
IT DROVE YOU 4400 YEARS INTO THE PAST-- JUST TO STEAL AN APPLAUSE MACHINE!
TRUE, TRUE, OLD FOE...
MY 64TH-CENTURY SCIENCE IS SO ADVANCED, SUCH A CRUDE DEVICE IS NATURALLY UNHEARD OF IN MY ERA!
HE PRESSED THAT FLOWER IN HIS LAPEL-- AND THE ROOM INSTANTLY TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN AGAIN!
IT WILL BE MOST AMUSING TO SEE YOU ATTEMPT TO AVOID THIS ONCOMING WAND-BLAST IN YOUR INVERTED STATE, SPEEDSTER!
AMUSING, YES
BUT THE LAUGH IS ALL ON YOU!
I-IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU SHOULD BE OFF-BALANCE...TUMBLING ONTO YOUR SCARLET REAR...
THE ONLY ONE HEADING FOR A LANDING ON HIS REAR AROUND HERE IS YOU, PAL!
OOOFFFF!
10


WHEN THE WICKED WIZARD SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR UNCONSCIOUS...
ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU, FLASH! YOU THINK YOU CAN TURN THINGS RIGHT-SIDE UP AGAIN? I'M GETTING NAUSEOUS!
HOLD ON--IF I CAN JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO WORK THIS FLOWER...


YOU DID IT, FLASH! THE CEILING IS ABOVE US AGAIN WHERE IT BELONGS!
AND NOW I CAN TURN OFF THIS INFERNAL MACHINE! I NEVER WANT TO HEAR HANDS CLAPPING AGAIN!

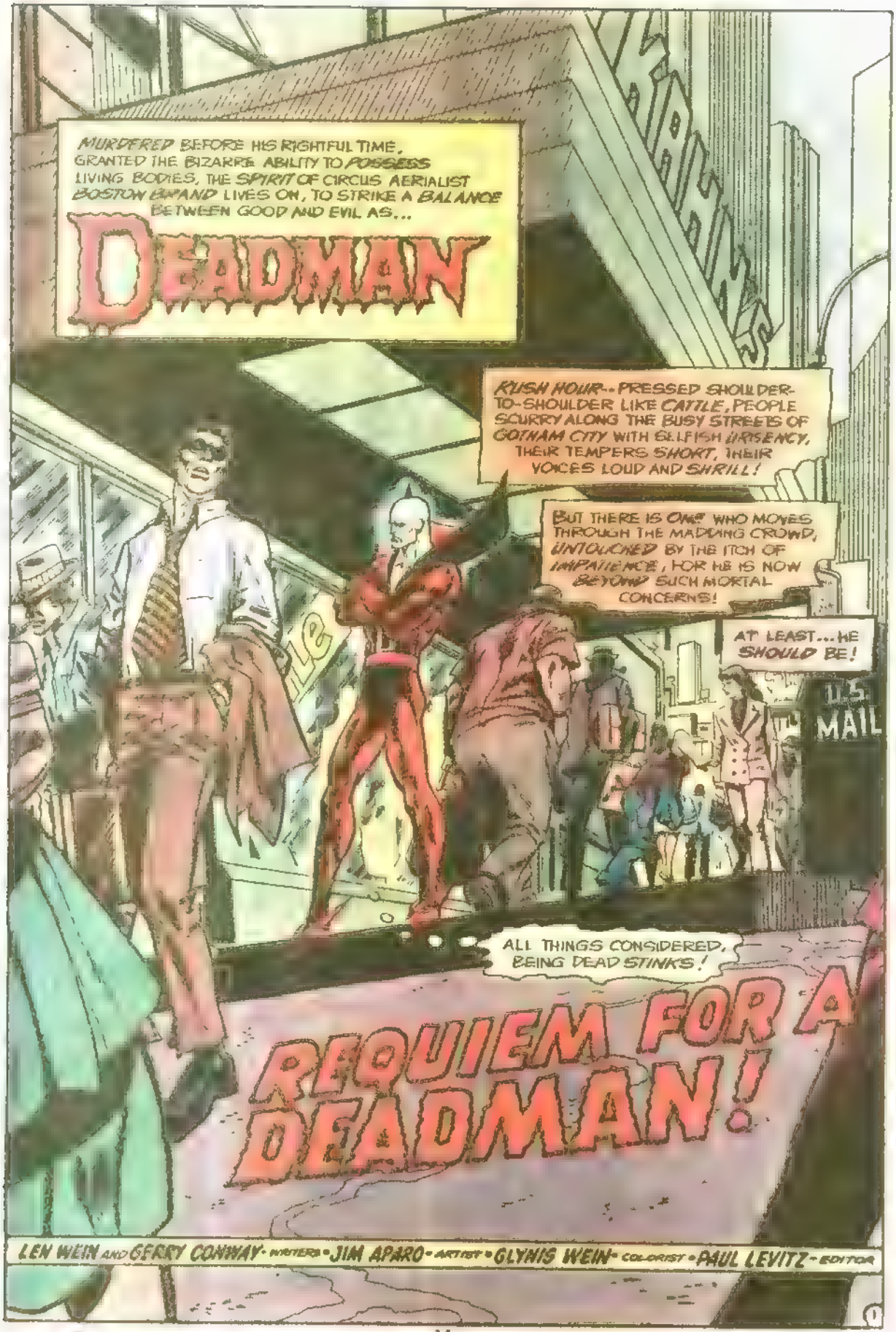
BUT THE NEXT INSTANT...
ULP! WHO ARE THEY?
64TH CENTURY POLICEMEN, NO DOUBT! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN TRACKING ABRA KADABRA THROUGH TIME!

AND AS THE FUTURISTIC LAW ENFORCERS PREPARE TO DEPART WITH THEIR GROGGY PRISONER MOMENTS LATER..
THAT WAS A NICE GESTURE, MR. THORPE--LETTING ABRA TAKE YOUR STATION'S APPLAUSE-MACHINE BACK TO JAIL WITH HIM!
NOTHING NICE ABOUT IT, FLASH! I NEVER WANT TO HEAR ONE OF THOSE MACHINES AGAIN!


FROM NOW ON, WCYC-TV WILL BE BROADCASTING REAL APPLAUSE OR NONE AT ALL!
WHEW! IF YOU DON'T MIND... AFTER THE TOPSY-TURVY DAY I'VE HAD, I COULD SURE USE A DRINK!

FLASH--WHY ARE YOU HOLDING THE PAPER CUP UPSIDE-DOWN?

OOOPPS! I GUESS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PRACTICE OPERATING RIGHT-SIDE UP AGAIN!
BUT DON'T WORRY--I'M A FAST LEARNER!
END


MURDERED BEFORE HIS RIGHTFUL TIME, GRANTED THE BIZARRE ABILITY TO POSSESS LIVING BODIES, THE SPIRIT OF CIRCUS AERIALIST BOSTON BRAND LIVES ON, TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL AS...
DEADMAN
RUSH HOUR-- PRESSED SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER LIKE CATTLE, PEOPLE SCURRY ALONG THE BUSY STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY WITH SELFISH URGENCY, THEIR TEMPERS SHORT, THEIR VOICES LOUD AND SHRILL!
BUT THERE IS ONE WHO MOVES THROUGH THE MADDING CROWD, UNTOUCHED BY THE ITCH OF IMPATIENCE, FOR HE IS NOW BEYOND SUCH MORTAL CONCERNS!
AT LEAST... HE SHOULD BE!
U.S. MAIL
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, BEING DEAD STINKS!
REQUIEM FOR A DEADMAN!
LEN WEIN AND GERRY CONWAY - WRITERS • JIM APARO - ARTIST • GLYNIS WEIN - COLORIST • PAUL LEVITZ - EDITOR

KRAK

WHEN THAT HOOK-HANDED *HIT-MAN* PUT A *BULLET* THROUGH MY HEART,* I SHOULD'VE KNOWN MY PROBLEMS WERE ONLY *BEGINNING!*

*IN THE NOW-CLASSIC *STRANGE ADVENTURES #205.*--Paul*

OTHER FOLKS GET TO *REST IN PEACE* AFTER THEY DIE-- NOT *YOURS TRULY!*

RAMA KUSHNA, SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSE, HAD A *SPECIAL* FATE IN STORE FOR *ME!*

GOOD OL' RAMA ALLOWED MY *SPIRIT* TO LIVE ON, ABLE TO *POSSESS* THE BODIES OF *OTHERS*--

--UNTIL I FINALLY *FOUND* THE CREEP WHO HAD *KILLED* ME!

OH!

SMACK

AND WHILE *BODY-HOPPING* ISN'T EXACTLY THE MOST *PLEASANT* SENSATION IN THE WORLD...

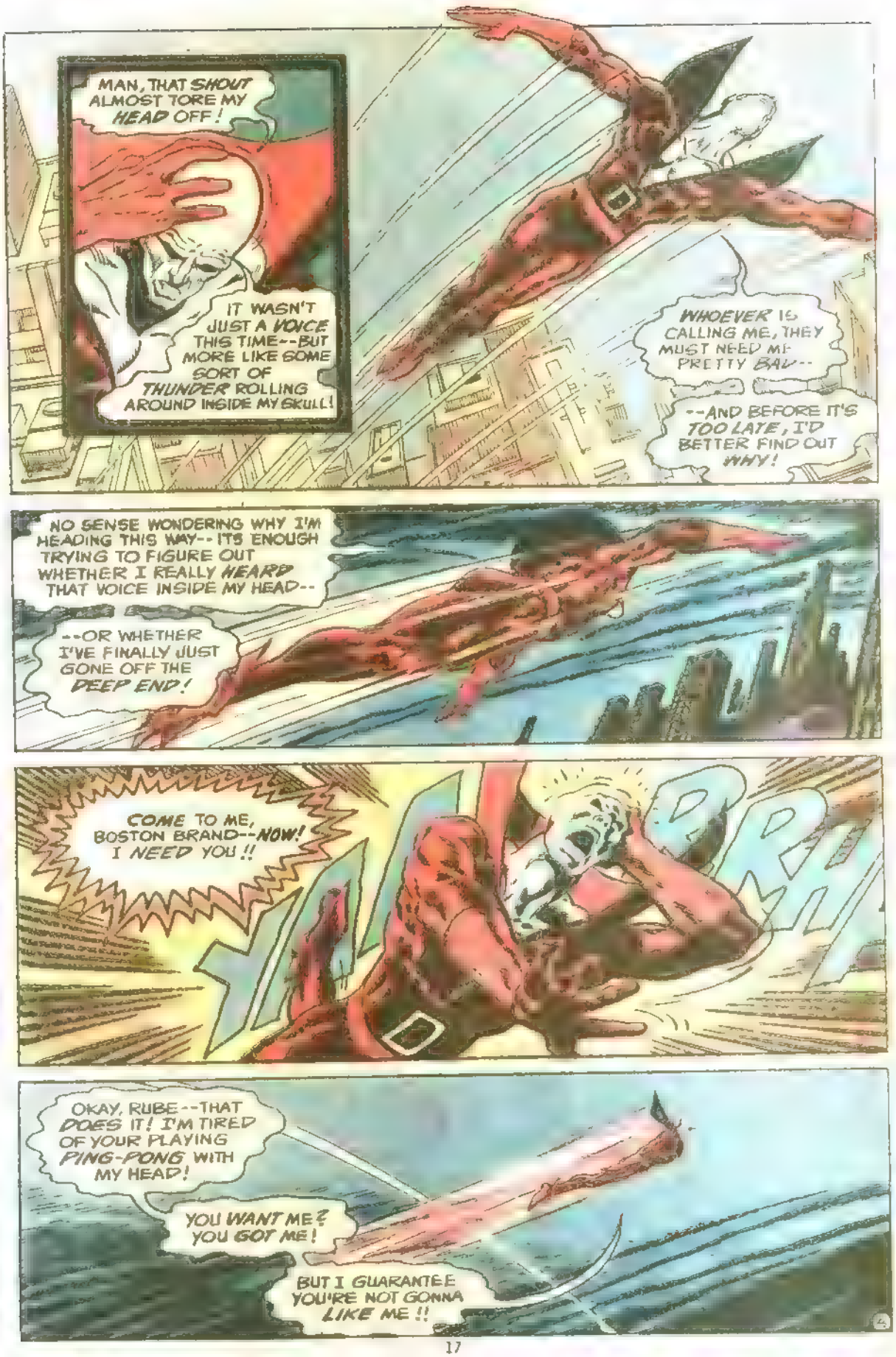
ANIMAL!

WAK

...IT *DOES* HAVE ITS *ADVANTAGES!*

HNNNFH!!

YEAH, SURE IT DOES...
...IF YOU HAPPEN TO ENJOY GETTING ALL YOUR KICKS SECOND-HAND!
I'VE BECOME SOME SORT OF PARAPHYSICAL PARASITE-- EXISTING VICARIOUSLY-- STEALING RANDOM MOMENTS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES!
AND, TO TELL THE TRUTH-- I'M SICK OF IT!
MAYBE I MADE A MISTAKE, REJECTING THE FINAL REST RAMA KUSHNA OFFERED ME AFTER THE DEATH OF THE HOOK!
MAYBE IT'S TIME I QUIT TRYING TO BALANCE THE GOOD AND EVIL IN THIS CRUMMY WORLD, AND FINALLY GRAB THE SIX FEET OF DIRT I'M ENTITLED TO...
BOSTON BRAND.
HUH?
WHO'S THERE? DID SOMEBODY CALL MY NAME?
NOBODY!
BOY, THIS MUST REALLY BE GETTING TO ME!
I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD SOMEBODY WHISPERING IN MY...
BOSTON BRAND! COME TO ME!!
AARGH!


MAN, THAT SHOUT ALMOST TORE MY HEAD OFF!
IT WASN'T JUST A VOICE THIS TIME--BUT MORE LIKE SOME SORT OF THUNDER ROLLING AROUND INSIDE MY SKULL!
WHOEVER IS CALLING ME, THEY MUST NEED ME PRETTY BAD--
--AND BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, I'D BETTER FIND OUT WHY!
NO SENSE WONDERING WHY I'M HEADING THIS WAY--IT'S ENOUGH TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHETHER I REALLY HEARD THAT VOICE INSIDE MY HEAD--
--OR WHETHER I'VE FINALLY JUST GONE OFF THE DEEP END!
COME TO ME, BOSTON BRAND--NOW! I NEED YOU!!
OKAY, RUBE--THAT DOES IT! I'M TIRED OF YOUR PLAYING PING-PONG WITH MY HEAD!
YOU WANT ME? YOU GOT ME!
BUT I GUARANTEE YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE ME!!

PSI-LAB ONE IS THE MOST ADVANCED FACILITY OF ITS KIND--A CAREFULLY-CRAFTED COMPLEX WHERE DEDICATED SCIENTISTS STRUGGLE TO UNLOCK THE INFINITE SECRETS OF THE HUMAN MIND!
EXPERIMENTS ARE CONDUCTED HERE UNDER THE MOST STRINGENT LABORATORY CONDITIONS, EVERY ASPECT OF EVERY OPERATION IS PAINSTAKINGLY SCRUTINIZED--NOTHING IS EVER LEFT TO CHANCE..
...WHICH MAKES THIS PARTICULAR ENDEAVOR ALL THE MORE INCREDIBLE!
BY THE POWERS OF THE ETERNAL, BOSTON BRAND--I COMMAND YOU TO REVEAL YOURSELF TO US!
THE SEANCE IS WORKING, DR. TRENT--I CAN FEEL IT!
WELL, ALL I FEEL RIGHT NOW IS VERY MUCH EMBARRASSED!
I'VE SAT THROUGH ABOUT AS MUCH OF THIS FARCE AS I CAN STAND!
ANNABELLE --NO!
AND WHY NOT, DR. CABEL? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SCIENTISTS--NOT SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY WITCHES!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE SITTING HERE LIKE THIS, ACTUALLY TRYING TO CONJURE UP A GHOST!
ANNABELLE, PLEASE--BE REASONABLE, MY DEAR! WE'VE EXHAUSTED ALL THE ALTERNATIVES!
I'M SORRY, JESSICA--TRULY SORRY--BUT I JUST CANNOT CONTINUE WITH THIS!
ANNABELLE IS RIGHT, DR. TRENT! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK WE'RE ONLY MAKING FOOLS OF OURSELVES!
WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION, TED BROOKS--I'LL ASK FOR IT!
ANNABELLE, YOU KNOW WHY WE'VE BEEN FORCED TO RESORT TO THIS!
S.T.A.R. WILL ORDER THIS FACILITY CLOSED IF OUR PROBLEMS HERE PERSIST!
I APPRECIATE THAT, JESSICA, BUT STILL--!
I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND YOUR RESISTANCE TO THIS, MISS LEE!
SOME SORT OF POLTERGEIST SEEMS TO BE TEARING THIS FACILITY DOWN AROUND OUR EARS--AND THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO DEAL WITH IT!

IT'S TAKEN US *ENOUGH* TIME AND EFFORT TO LEARN THAT A CIRCUS AERIALIST NAMED BOSTON BRAND WAS *MURDERED* ON THIS SITE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THIS COMPLEX WAS *BUILT* HERE!

HOW MUCH *MORE* TIME DO YOU EXPECT US TO *WASTE*?

PLEASE, ANNABELLE--GIVE IT A *TRY!* IF WE FAIL *THIS* TIME, THAT WILL BE THE *END* OF IT!

ALL RIGHT, JESSICA, ONE LAST TIME...

..FOR *YOU!*

THUS, THE CIRCLE IS ONCE MORE JOINED.. AND THE *CHANTING* BEGINS ANEW.

SPIRIT OF BOSTON BRAND--*HEAR* US! IN THE NAME OF THE ETERNAL, WE NOW SUMMON YE *BEFORE* US!

IT'S *WORKING*, DR. TRENT--IT'S *WORKING!!*

I'D SWEAR I CAN SENSE THE *VIBRATIONS* IN THE AIR!

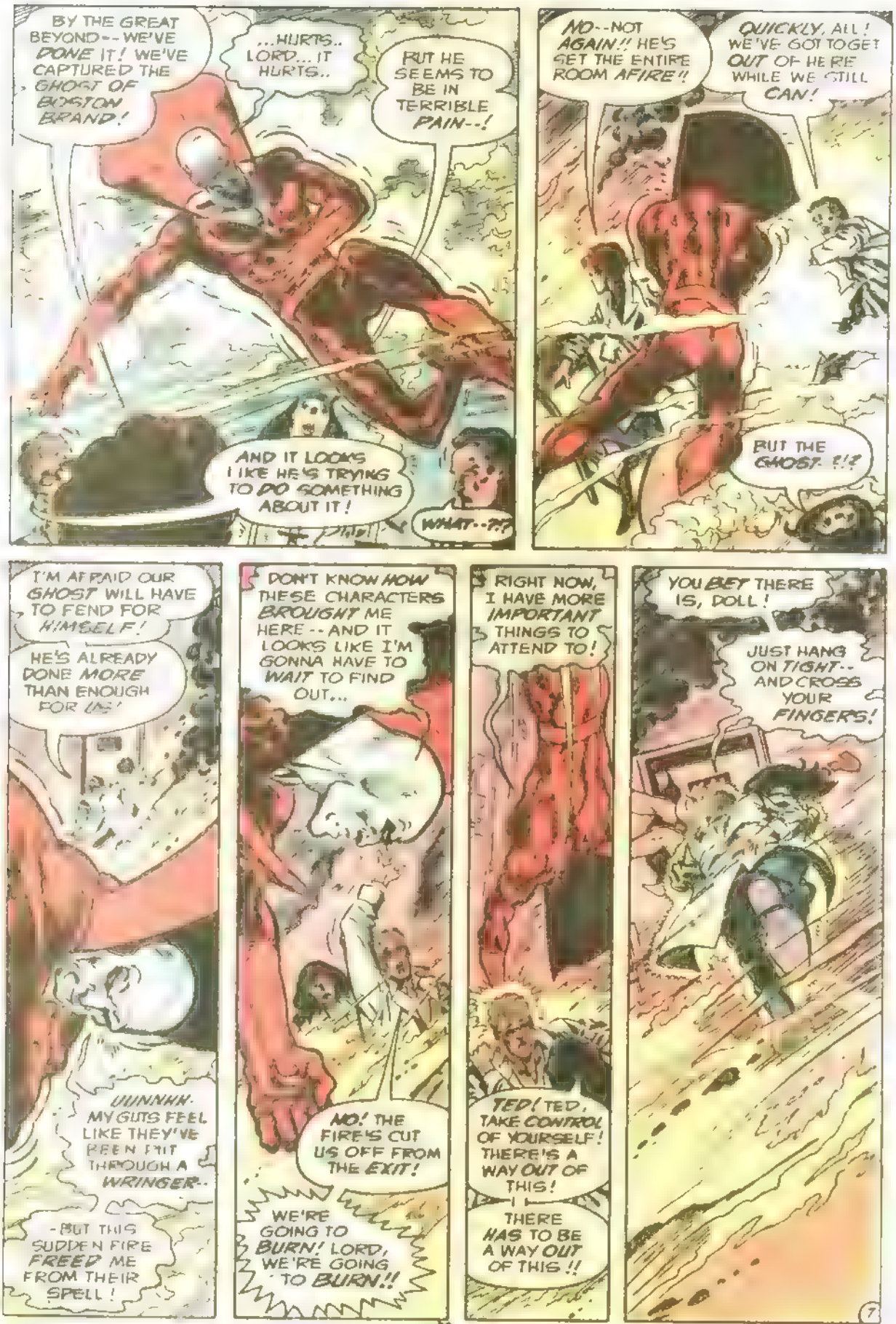
THE SPIRIT OF *BOSTON BRAND* IS COMING *CLOSER..*

CLOSER..

SWEET LORD IN HEAVEN..

HE'S HERE!!

AARRGGHH


BY THE GREAT BEYOND--WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE CAPTURED THE GHOST OF BOSTON BRAND!
...HURTS.. LORD... IT HURTS..
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE IN TERRIBLE PAIN--!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
WHAT--?!?
NO--NOT AGAIN!! HE'S SET THE ENTIRE ROOM AFIRE!!
QUICKLY, ALL! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE WHILE WE STILL CAN!
BUT THE GHOST--!!?
I'M AFRAID OUR GHOST WILL HAVE TO FEND FOR HIMSELF!
HE'S ALREADY DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR US!
UUNNHH· MY GUTS FEEL LIKE THEY'VE BEEN PUT THROUGH A WRINGER··
-BUT THIS SUDDEN FIRE FREED ME FROM THEIR SPELL!
DON'T KNOW HOW THESE CHARACTERS BROUGHT ME HERE--AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO WAIT TO FIND OUT...
NO! THE FIRE'S CUT US OFF FROM THE EXIT!
WE'RE GOING TO BURN! LORD, WE'RE GOING TO BURN!!
RIGHT NOW, I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO ATTEND TO!
TED! TED, TAKE CONTROL OF YOURSELF! THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS!
THERE HAS TO BE A WAY OUT OF THIS!!
YOU BET THERE IS, DOLL!
JUST HANG ON TIGHT-- AND CROSS YOUR FINGERS!
7

TED?! WH-WHAT ARE YOU--?

THERE'LL BE TIME FOR QUESTIONS *LATER*, ANNABELLE--

--LIKE *AFTER* WE'VE GOTTEN *OUT* OF THIS MESS *ALIVE!*

BUT I WOULDN'T HOLD MY *BREATH* WAITING FOR THE *ANSWERS*, BABE!

EVEN IF YOU *GOT* 'EM, I DOUBT YOU'D EVER *BELIEVE* 'EM!

TED! ANNABELLE! ARE THE TWO OF YOU *ALL RIGHT?*

WH-WHAT *HAPPENED* TO US?

YOU JUST SAVED *OUR LIVES*, IS ALL!

FRANKLY, TED--I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT *IN* YOU!

NEITHER *DID ME*, DOLL!

BUT THE *FIRE--!* IT'S STILL--!

IT'S BEING *ATTENDED* TO, TED!

THIS TIME, AT LEAST, THE SPIRIT OF BOSTON BRAND HAS *FAILED* IN HIS EFFORTS TO *DESTROY* US!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING *WRONG* WITH THAT LINE OF THINKING, LADY--NAMELY, *I'M* NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR *ANY* OF THIS!

BUT I INTEND TO STICK AROUND HERE UNTIL I FIND OUT WHO *IS!!*

8

THUS, EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
I'VE SCOURED EVERY INCH OF THIS JOINT-- AND COME UP WITH ZERO!
WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S CAUSING THE STRING OF CATASTROPHES AROUND HERE, I CAN'T FIND A TRACE OF IT!
SO NOW I FIGURE MY BEST BET IS TO JUST SIT TIGHT -AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS!
DO YOU HAVE A READING YET, DR. TRENT?
NONE, ANNABELLE -- THE ECTOMETERS ALL SHOW NEGATIVE!
DAMN! THAT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE!
WE'VE ALL SEEN BOSTON BRAND'S GHOST! WE KNOW IT HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE!
SO WHY IN BLAZES CAN'T WE...
BAM BAM
WHAT IN--?!?
THE ECTO-MEK--!! SOMETHING'S SHORT-CIRCUITED IT!!
QUICKLY, TED--THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER!
DON'T WORRY, DR. TRENT-- I'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL!
IT APPEARS THE LATE BOSTON BRAND HAS BEEN UP TO HIS USUAL TRICKS AGAIN!
SSSS
NOT I, SAID THE SPIRIT--THOUGH NOBODY COULD HEAR IT!
BUT THIS TIME I HAVE THE UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING I KNOW WHO REALLY WAS RESPONSIBLE...

...AND I'M GOING TO *BORROW* MYSELF A CONVENIENT *BODY* SO I CAN *PROVE* IT!

THERE IS SOMETHING MOST *UNSETTLING* ABOUT ALL THIS, ANNA--

UH.

DOCTOR CABEL? *DOCTOR?*

CONRAD, IS SOMETHING *WRONG?*

TO BE *HONEST*, ANNABELLE--SOMETHING IS *VERY* WRONG!

I'M REALLY QUITE *DISAPPOINTED* WITH YOUR *PERFORMANCE* DURING THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR!

YOU DIDN'T *BELIEVE* OUR POLTERGEIST THEORY FROM THE *START*, AND NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN PROVEN WRONG...

WELL, FRANKLY--I WONDER WHETHER YOU'VE STARTED *SABOTAGING* THIS PROJECT JUST TO *SAVE FACE!*

WHAT--?!?

HOW *DARE* YOU ACCUSE ME OF SUCH A THING? THERE IS *NOBODY* AT THIS FACILITY WHO IS MORE *CONCERNED* WITH GETTING TO THE *TRUTH!*

KREEEK

IF YOU'RE NOT *HAPPY* WITH MY WORK, DOCTOR, THEN *FIRE* ME--BUT DON'T ATTEMPT TO *BLAME* ME FOR ALL YOUR OWN *FAILURES!*

SWEET SISTER--I WAS *RIGHT!*

BUT THAT WON'T DO *ANYBODY* ANY GOOD UNLESS I *MOVE*--

--AND *MOVE FAST!!*

SH

MY GOD! DID YOU SEE THAT? THE CEILING CAME DOWN RIGHT WHERE DR. CABEL AND I WERE STANDING--
NOT BOTH OF US, ANNABELLE--
--AS THOUGH THE POLTERGEIST WERE TRYING TO KILL US IN PARTICULAR!
--ME! AND IT ISN'T A POLTERGEIST WHO'S BEEN SABOTAGING THIS PROJECT, IT'S A HUMAN MIND!
YOURS!
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING--
EXACTLY, MY DEAR...
THE "POLTERGEIST" WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR IS NO MORE GHOSTLY THAN THE SUB-CONSCIOUS! ALL OUR EFFORTS HERE HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD PSYCHIC RESEARCH--
--PLUMBING THE SUBTERRANEAN RESERVOIRS OF THE HUMAN MENTALITY!
HOW IRONIC THAT WE MISSED THE MOST OBVIOUS SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM --
--THE SUB-CONSCIOUS USE OF A TELEKINETIC POWER!
CONRAD, DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. ANNABELLE ISN'T TELEPATHIC...
WE CHECKED THAT WHEN SHE JOINED THE PROJECT... REMEMBER?
EH?
WHOOPS! THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR SPOUTING OFF ABOUT A LOTTA STUFF I DON'T UNDERSTAND, USING WORDS I PICKED UP FROM HANGING AROUND...
BUT IF IT ISN'T SOME KINDA TELEPATHY, THEN HOW--?
YET, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY...
C'MON, DR. TRENT, YOU DON'T BE-LIEVE THAT, DO YOU?

ANNABELLE SHOWED A *NEGATIVE* REACTION TO OUR SENSING DEVICES, TED, BUT IF CONRAD IS *CORRECT*--

--HER TELEKENETIC POWERS COULD BE SO DEEPLY *BURIED* EVEN OUR PROBES COULDN'T FIND THEM, WITHOUT *HELP!*

NOW *WAIT* A MOMENT, JESSICA--

--I'M NOT A *GUINEA PIG!* WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO?*

A LITTLE *HYPNOSIS*, DEAR... A GENTLE *NUDGE* TO YOUR *ID.*

IT'LL *OPEN UP* YOUR INNER MIND... FORGE A *PATH* FOR THE PROBE!

NOW PLEASE LIE DOWN!

TRUST ME...AND GAZE *DEEP* INTO THIS *MESMERON!*

I...TRUST YOU, JESSICA. BUT SUDDENLY, I'M ...*AFRAID!*

PLEASE BE *CAREFUL*... CAREFUL...

HER VOICE *FADES* OUT, AND HER EYES SEEM TO GROW *MILKY...*

...AND FOR A TIME, HER MIND *GOES AWAY*, RECEDING LIKE A *TIDE*...

FROM A DISTANCE, SHE HEARS A *VOICE* GENTLY URGING HER NOT TO *RESIST* SOME UNDEFINED *ACTION*, AND THEN *ANOTHER* VOICE CALLS HER--

--AN *ANGRY* VOICE, AND AT ITS *SOUND*--

RRRRR

--HER MIND *EXPLODES!*

THE *POLTERGEIST*-- IT'S *TEARING THE LAB APART!*

BUT IT *ISN'T* A *GHOST*-- IT'S *ANNABELLE*--

SHE'S TRYING TO *KILL* US!

ACROBATICS WON'T SAVE THESE FOLKS THIS TIME!
I'VE GOTTA STOP ALL THIS STUFF AT THE SOURCE--
--AND THAT'S INSIDE ANNABELLE'S BRAIN!
SWEET SISTER! THERE'RE MORE FLASHING LIGHTS IN HERE THAN THERE ARE ON A NEW ORLEANS PINBALL GAME!
ANNABELLE MAY BE UNCONSCIOUS, BUT HER MIND SURE HASN'T STOPPED WORKING OVERTIME!
HOW AM I GONNA FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER--WHUPPS--
--IF I CAN'T MAKE IT PAST ALL THESE SPEEDING THOUGHTS!
GUESS I'VE GOTTA FIND A SHORTCUT, AND SINCE THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BRAIN IS WHERE ALL THE ACTION IS--
--I'LL JUST SLIP THROUGH TO THE RIGHT!
NOW WE'RE TALKING! I REMEMBER DOING THIS ONCE BEFORE, BACK WHEN MY OLD CIRCUS PAL TINY WAS DYING FROM A BULLET MEANT FOR MY BROTHER CLEVE*...
FUNNY, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY DIFFERENT ABOUT ANNABELLE'S MIND...
*A BRIEF PRECIS OF THE ACTION IN STRANGE ADVENTURES # 212 & # 213 - Paul.
13

...AND IT'S NOT JUST THAT SHE'S GOT *PSYCHIC POWERS!*

IT SOUNDS *WEIRD*, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING *WATCHED* IN HERE...

THAT ANNABELLE AND ME, WE'RE *NOT ALONE!*

BUT *NUTS*, THAT'S *CRAZY!* WHOEVER HEARD OF--*HEY!*

THAT'S IT! THERE'S ANNABELLE'S *ID*-- GLOWING LIKE A FISTFUL OF *SUNLIGHT!*

NOW I CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S--

HUH?

EEEYOOOOO

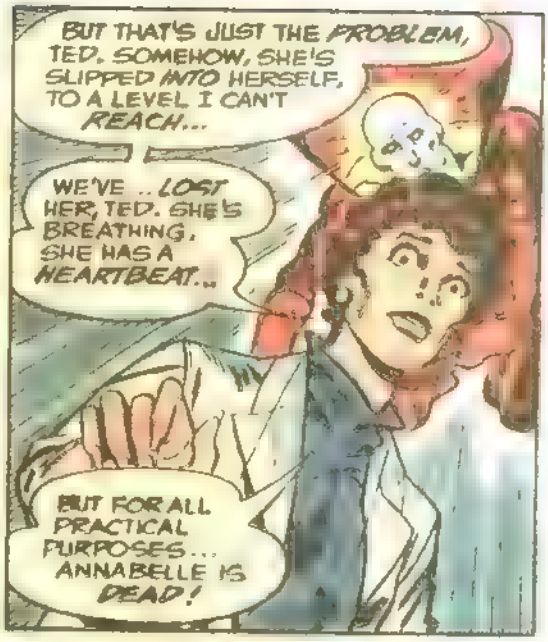
OOOOOWWWW

WHAT HIT ME?

WHAT?

14

ANNABELLE... ANNABELLE!
LORD, WHAT HAVE I DONE? SHE'S COMATOSE!
BRING HER OUT OF IT, DOCTOR-- PLEASE, HURRY!


BUT THAT'S JUST THE PROBLEM, TED. SOMEHOW, SHE'S SLIPPED INTO HERSELF, TO A LEVEL I CAN'T REACH...
WE'VE ..LOST HER, TED. SHE'S BREATHING, SHE HAS A HEARTBEAT...
BUT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES... ANNABELLE IS DEAD!

AARGH

BEEKMAN GENERAL HOSPITAL, ONE HOUR LATER...
WE'LL KEEP HER COMFORTABLE, DOCTOR, BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL WE CAN PROMISE...
HOSPI ZONE
QUIE

I UNDERSTAND, YOUNG MAN. WE WON'T TROUBLE YOU ANY LONGER!
COMMM, TED?
IN A MOMENT, DOCTOR...

YOU KNOW, THERE WAS A *TIME*... WHEN I FIRST JOINED THE PROJECT... WHEN I HOPED ANNABELLE WOULD *MARRY* ME, SOMEDAY...

I KNOW, TED. YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT *CONCEALING* YOUR EMOTIONS!

SHE NEVER REALLY *BELIEVED* IN PSYCHIC PHENOMENA, YOU KNOW...

ME, I'VE *DREAMED* ABOUT *ESP* AND *ASTRAL PROJECTION* EVER SINCE I WAS A *KID* BACK IN *ILLINOIS*. I GUESS I WANTED TO *ESCAPE*...

BUT ANNABELLE, SHE WAS A *SKEPTIC*...

DID YOU HEAR *THAT*? I SAID "WAS"... AS THOUGH SHE WERE ALREADY--

BRAND! BOSTON BRAND! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO IT TO *HER*? WHY *HER*?

WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE KILLED *ME*?

TED, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! WE *ESTABLISHED* THAT THE *GHOST* HAD NOTHING TO *DO* WITH THE "POLTERGEIST" PHENOMENA--IT WAS *ANNABELLE!*

WAS IT? WHAT ABOUT THE *SPIRIT* WE SUMMONED, *DOCTOR*? WE *SAW* HIM, HE WAS *REAL!* AND BECAUSE OF *HIM*--ANNABELLE IS AS GOOD AS *BURIED!*

WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST WE *DO*, TED? HAVE ANOTHER *SEANCE*?

UH-OH...

NO *SEANCE*, JESSICA. THIS TIME, WE'VE GOT TO GET *RID* OF THAT DEMON FOR *GOOD*. COME ON BACK TO THE *LAB*...

I'VE GOT AN *IDEA!*

TROUBLE TIME!

PSI-LAB ONE IS A FULL TEN MILES FROM BEEKMAN HOSPITAL; BY CAR, IT'S A FIFTEEN-MINUTE DRIVE; FOR A *GHOST*, THE JOURNEY IS SOMEWHAT *SWIFTER*...

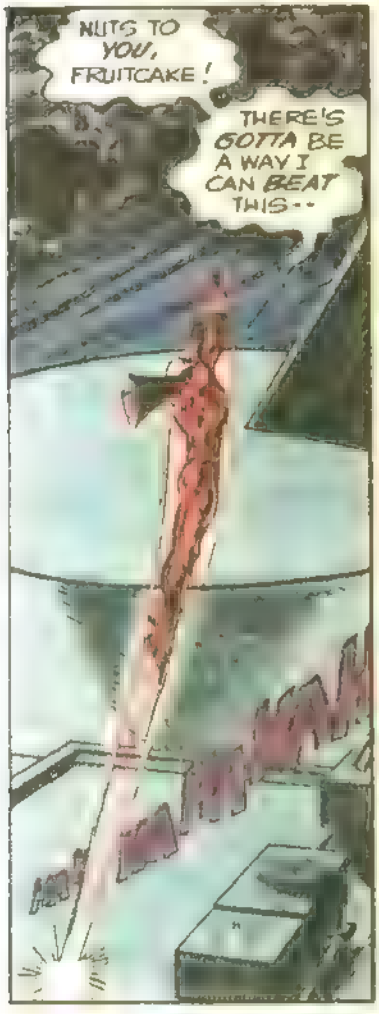
THERE'S *CABEL*, JUST WHERE I *LEFT* HIM AN HOUR AGO, WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *TIME* HE LOST. TOO BAD--

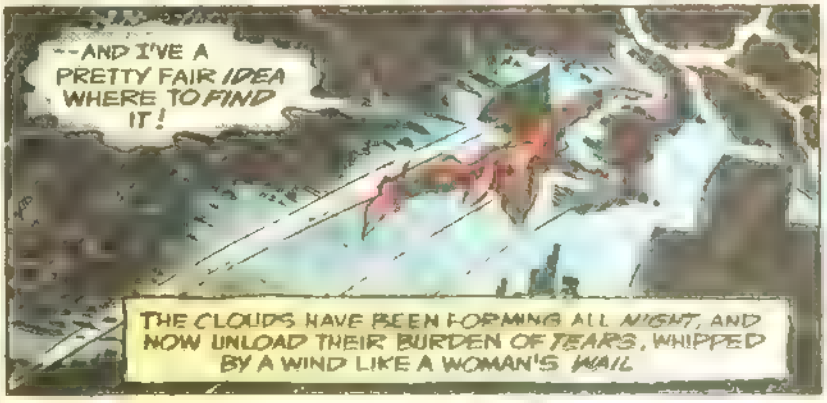
--BUT HE'S ABOUT TO LOSE SOME MORE! I CAN'T LET BROOKS AND TRENT FULL ANOTHER--UFFF!
WHAT THE HELL? I CAN'T GET IN!
AH, AT LAST...BOSTON BRAND, I PRESUME?
WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW CAN YOU SEE M
I CAN'T HEAR YOU, OF COURSE, OR SEE YOU, OR SENSE YOU IN ANY PHYSICAL WAY--BUT I KNOW YOU'RE HERE, BRAND!
I...FELT YOU WHEN YOU TRIED TO TAKE CONTROL OF MY BODY. I COULDN'T ALLOW THAT, NATURALLY...
YOU COULDN'T ALLOW--?!
I WOULD HAVE STOPPED YOU THE FIRST TIME YOU TOOK ME OVER, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR POWERS THEN--
--OR EVEN THAT YOU WERE MORE THAN A DISQUIETOUS GHOST!
ACTUALLY, FOR THAT MATTER, I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THE DEPTH OF MY OWN ABILITIES! YES, ANNABELLE WAS OUR "POLTERGEIST"!
--BUT I WAS THE FORCE MANIPULATING HER, FORCING HER SUB-CONSCIOUS TO OBEY MY TELEPATHIC COMMANDS. MISS LEE IS A TELEKINETICIST...
...BUT I AM AN OMNIPATH!
UNNGHH!
NEXT TO THE FORCE OF MY WILL, OTHER MINDS ARE LIKE CANDLES BEFORE THE SUN!
AND YOU, BOSTON BRAND, ARE A THREAT TO MY SURVIVAL!
17

DON'T KNOW.. WHAT HE HIT ME WITH... BUT I FEEL WORSE ...THAN MISSIN' A TRAPEZE BAR ...WITHOUT A NET...
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, UNLIKE A TELEPATH, AN OMNIPATH HAS NO REAL EFFECT ON THE NORMAL HUMAN MIND!
MY POWERS, THOUGH INTENSE, ARE LIMITED...

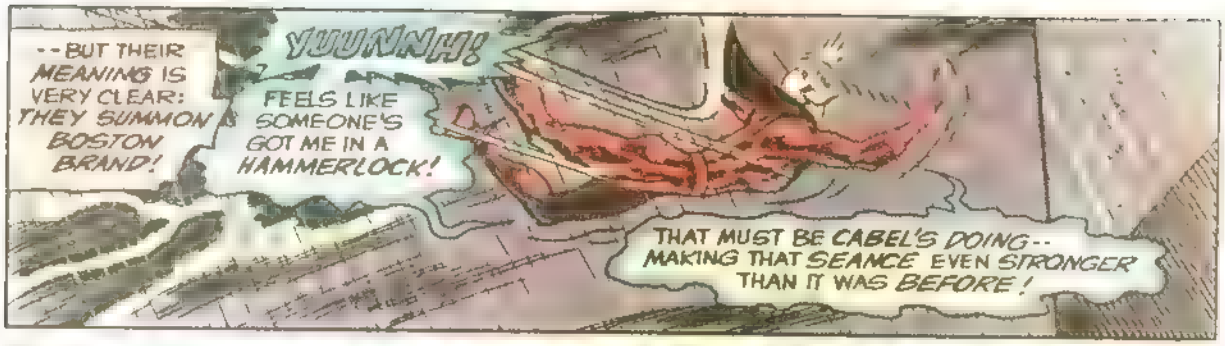
I CAN CONTROL THE MINDS OF PEOPLE WITH PSYCHIC ABILITIES... OR I CAN ATTACK A GHOST... BUT I CANNOT TOUCH A DULLARD LIKE TED BROOKS...
AND SPEAKING OF MR. BROOKS -- IT APPEARS HE AND DR. TRENT HAVE RETURNED IN TIME FOR A NEW SEANCE...

I'LL PROTECT THEM FROM YOU, OF COURSE. BUT WHAT WILL PROTECT YOU, BOSTON BRAND? THIS TIME, OUR SEANCE WILL PUT YOU TO FINAL REST...
AND TONIGHT, THERE WILL BE A REQUIEM --FOR A DEADMAN!


NUTS TO YOU, FRUITCAKE!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY I CAN BEAT THIS--

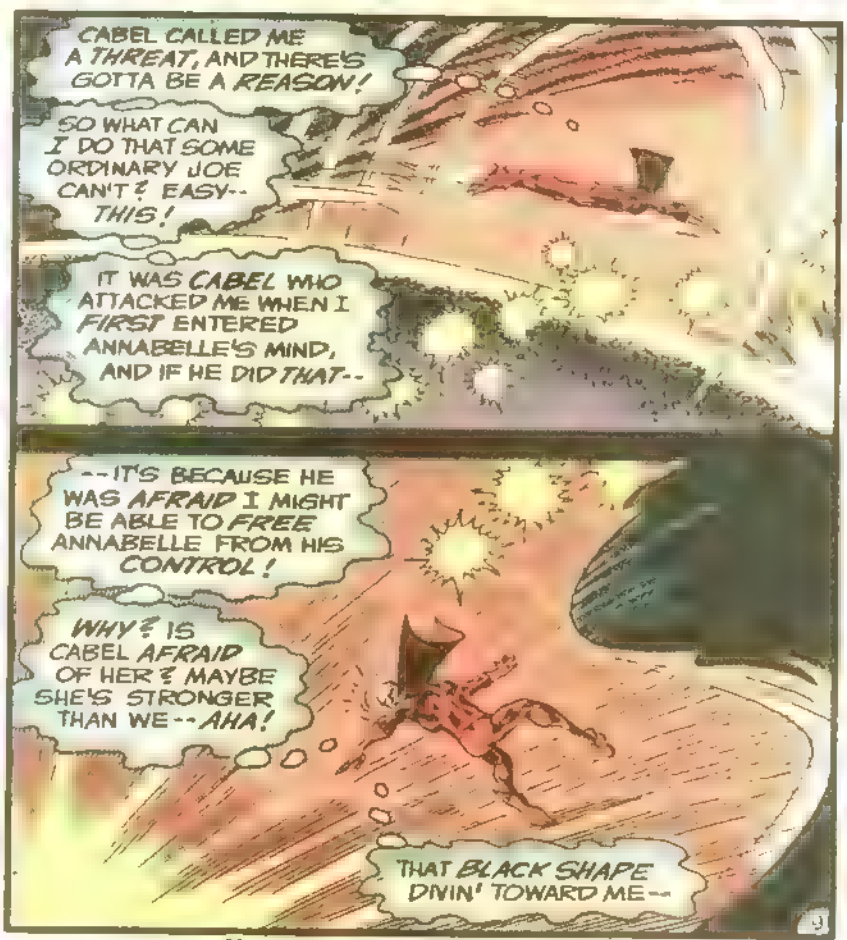

--AND I'VE A PRETTY FAIR IDEA WHERE TO FIND IT!
THE CLOUDS HAVE BEEN FORMING ALL NIGHT, AND NOW UNLOAD THEIR BURDEN OF TEARS, WHIPPED BY A WIND LIKE A WOMAN'S WAIL

IN A DARKENED COMPUTER ROOM TURNED MAKESHIFT SEANCE-HALL, THE STORM OUTSIDE GOES UNHEARD, FOR HERE, VOICES ARE RAISED IN A RHYTHMIC CHANT...
THE WORDS ARE IN LATIN, THEIR ORIGIN OBSCURE--


--BUT THEIR MEANING IS VERY CLEAR: THEY SUMMON BOSTON BRAND!
YUUNNH!
FEELS LIKE SOMEONE'S GOT ME IN A HAMMERLOCK!
THAT MUST BE CABEL'S DOING-- MAKING THAT SEANCE EVEN STRONGER THAN IT WAS BEFORE!

I'VE GOTTA FIGHT BACK-- 'CAUSE IF THEY GET ME, NOT EVEN RAMA KUSHNA CAN SAVE MY SKIN!
C'MON, BRAND! IT'S LIKE MAKING A TRIPLE BACK-FLIP! YOU CAN'T THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'VE-- JUST-- GOTTA--

--DO IT!
HANG IN THERE, ANNABELLE, OLD KID, 'CAUSE HERE COMES THE CAVALRY!


CABEL CALLED ME A THREAT, AND THERE'S GOTTA BE A REASON!
SO WHAT CAN I DO THAT SOME ORDINARY JOE CAN'T? EASY-- THIS!
IT WAS CABEL WHO ATTACKED ME WHEN I FIRST ENTERED ANNABELLE'S MIND, AND IF HE DID THAT--
--IT'S BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FREE ANNABELLE FROM HIS CONTROL!
WHY? IS CABEL AFRAID OF HER? MAYBE SHE'S STRONGER THAN WE-- AHA!
THAT BLACK SHAPE DIVIN' TOWARD ME--

--THAT'S GOTTA BE CABEL'

BIMGO! RIGHT THE FIRST TIME! GIVE THIS MAN A KEWPIE DOLL!

BOSTON BRAND, YOU ARE A DOOMED SPIRIT...

RESIST YOUR DESTINY, AND YOUR ENDING WILL BE ALL THE MORE PAINFUL!

KNOW SOMETHING, CHUM, YOU REMIND ME OF A JUDGE WHO ONCE TRIED TO RUIN OUR CIRCUS OUTA TOWN--!

YOU'RE BOTH SO FULL OF HOT AIR, YOU COULD START A BALLOON FACTORY!

AAAVUNN!

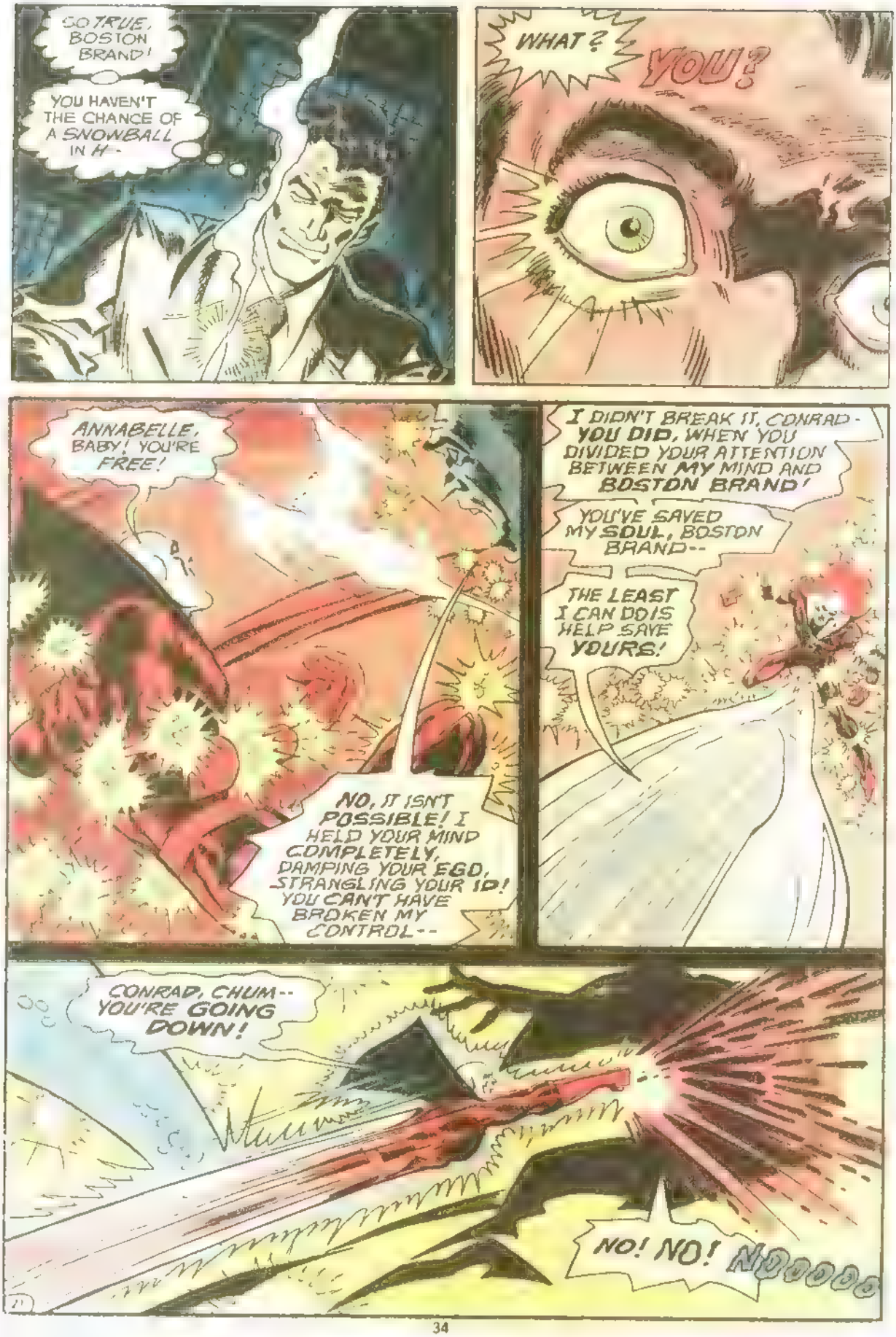
YOUR BRAVADO DOES YOU CREDIT, BRAND. BUT IT HARDLY ALTERS THE REALITY--

YOU ARE HOPELESSLY OUTCLASSED!

NNFFHH! HE'S RIGHT! WHAT CAN A DEAD ACROBAT DO TO A GUY WHO CAN THROW THOUGHT-PULSES OFF-COURSE--

-- JUST BY WAVING A HAND? I HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!

20


SO TRUE, BOSTON BRAND!
YOU HAVEN'T THE CHANCE OF A SNOWBALL IN H-
WHAT?
YOU?
ANNABELLE, BABY! YOU'RE FREE!
NO, IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! I HELD YOUR MIND COMPLETELY, DAMPING YOUR EGO, STRANGLING YOUR ID! YOU CANT HAVE BROKEN MY CONTROL--
I DIDN'T BREAK IT, CONRAD - YOU DID, WHEN YOU DIVIDED YOUR ATTENTION BETWEEN MY MIND AND BOSTON BRAND!
YOU'VE SAVED MY SOUL, BOSTON BRAND--
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS HELP SAVE YOURS!
CONRAD, CHUM-- YOU'RE GOING DOWN!
NO! NO! NOOOOO

AUUGH

CONRAD? CONRAD, FOR HEAVEN'S *SAKE* --WHAT ARE YOU *DO*--

SHARRRK

IN THE LAST *INSTANT* OF HIS LIFE, CONRAD CABEL KNOWS A *HORROR* BEYOND THAT EVER EXPERIENCED BY MAN. FOR CONRAD CABEL HAS *DIVIDED* HIS SOUL, SENDING *PART* OF HIS MIND ON A QUEST FOR *POWER*--

--AND WHAT HAS BEEN *DIVIDED* AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH *CANNOT* BE *REJOINED*.

CONRAD CABEL *DIES*--

--BUT HIS *MIND LIVES ON*, INCORPOREAL, ABANDONED, A SOUL CUT *ADRIFT*--

AND THE *SOUL* OF CONRAD CABEL *SHRIEKS* WITH THE *TORMENT OF THE DAMNED*...

A HOSPITAL ROOM NOT TOO FAR AWAY. .

THANK YOU, BOSTON BRAND *YOU'VE SAVED MORE* THAN MY LIFE. YOU'VE *OPENED DOORS* WHICH I NEVER KNEW *EXISTED*.

HOW CAN I HOPE TO *REPAY* YOU?

REPAY ME? LADY, I'M A *GHOST*...

..IT'S ENOUGH JUST TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE REMEMBERS ME .. AND CARES!
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU, BOSTON AND I'LL ALWAYS CARE!
BUT MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING MORE I CAN DO FOR YOU.
IT'S POSSIBLE THE PSI-LAB CAN BUILD A LINK BETWEEN YOUR SPIRIT WORLD AND OUR OWN. WITH SUCH A LINK--
--I WOULDN'T BE ALONE ANYMORE! I'D HAVE PEOPLE TO TALK TO! FRIENDS!
BUT CAN YOU DO IT, DOLL? SOME GUYS BUILT A ROBOT FOR ME ONCE," AND THAT WORKED ABOUT AS WELL AS A CONCRETE WHEEL..
"IN FOREVER PEOPLE #10.-Paul
WE CAN ONLY TRY, BOSTON! THAT'S ALL ANYONE CAN EVER DO!
TRY!
EPILOGUE: SMOKE CURLS LIKE A MORNING MIST AROUND THE SMOULDERING RUINS OF PSI-LAB ONE, AND THE SCENE LOOKS LIKE SOME ANCIENT BATTLEMENTS WRAPPED IN A MARSHLAND FOG...
IT HAPPENED SO QUICKLY ANNABELLE. CONRAD FELL INTO THE COMPUTERS... THEY EXPLODED, THE BUILDING CAUGHT FIRE..
BEFORE WE COULD GET HELP, IT WAS OVER. EVERYTHING'S LOST... AND IT'LL BE YEARS BEFORE WE GET ANOTHER RESEARCH GRANT...
I'M SORRY, BOSTON. PERHAPS, SOMEDAY...
YEAH, KID. SOMEDAY!
ANNABELLE? DARLING? WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO--?
A FRIEND, TED!
HIS NAME IS BOSTON BRAND...
END
23

EARTH-TWO--A WORLD MUCH LIKE OUR OWN, YET *SLIGHTLY* DIFFERENT. A WORLD WHERE YOUNG AND OLD HEROES HAVE JOINED FORCES AS THE--

JUSTICE SOCIETY

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON...

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO *STAY* BEHIND, *WILDCAT*?

WE'D REALLY *LOVE* TO HAVE YOU JOIN US...

WILLYA GO, ALREADY, SHEESH!

IF YOU *INSIST*-- BUT REMEMBER, WE DON'T OFTEN GET TIME TO TAKE A *NIGHT ON THE TOWN*!

AND I'M *LEAVING* TOMORROW... HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE *DIPLOMATIC GRIND* AND PUT MY *ROBIN* COSTUME BACK IN STORAGE.

C'MON, WILDCAT-- YOU DON'T WANT HELENA AND ME TO BE THE *MAJORITY*, DO YOU?

YOU TWO GALS OUTNUMBER A *GANG* OF MEN, SO THAT'S A LOT OF *HOGWASH*!

JUST GO AHEAD AND HAVE A *GOOD TIME*...

...AND I'LL WATCH HEADQUARTERS... MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T GO TROTTING OFF FOR A WALK OR SOMETHING!
SEEMS TO BE ABOUT ALL I'M GOOD FOR THESE DAYS, ANYHOW.
THOSE LAST COUPLE OF BATTLES GOT TO YOU, DIDN'T THEY, TED OL BOY..
EVEN AFTER THE DOCS SAID I WAS OKAY, I GOT ACHES IN PLACES WHERE I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD PLACES!
STILL, DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT ALLOWED A LITTLE FUN, RIGHT?
SOON...
THE KIDS WERE HEADED OFF TO SOME FANCY NIGHTCLUB..
..BUT THIS IS MORE MY STYLE.
NO PARKING
PARK
BAR and GRILL
SPENT A LOTTA HAPPY HOURS HERE WHEN I WAS IN THE FIGHT GAME.
STRETCH AND ME, SITTING AT CORNER TABLE, LOOKIN' AT THE WORLD GO BY...
...ALWAYS KNOWING WE WERE ON TOP. NICE FEELING.
2

HEY!

GET OUT AN' STAY OUT, YA DRUNKEN BUM!

I TOLD YA NOT TO PICK NO CRAZY FIGHTS IN MY PLACE!

YOU OKAY, BUDDY? CAN I HELP YOU?

NOT UNLESS YOU'RE *WILLING* TO PART WITH THE *PRICE* OF A WEE BOTTLE, MA FRIEND...

ANYTHING BUT, PAL... ANYTHING BUT.

SHEESH! I THINK THAT'S *JOCK TANNER* USED TO BE A *BANTAMWEIGHT* WHEN I WAS IN THE RING--

--BUT HOW THE HECK CAN YOU BE *SURE* WHEN A MAN LOOKS LIKE *THAT*?

ALL OF A SUDDEN, MY FEET FEEL LIKE *WALKING!*

YEAH, *HERE* SHE IS... *MY OLD GYM.*

MAYBE I NEVER SHOULD'VE *SHUT* HER DOWN TO GO BACK TO THE *JUSTICE SOCIETY.* MAN NEEDS *SOMETHING* TO CALL HIS OWN.

'COURSE, IT WOULD'VE BEEN *NICE* IF IT COULD'VE BEEN A *FAMILY*, 'STEAD OF JUST A PILE OF BRICKS AND BOARDS

HEY, MISTER--

—YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT PLACE?
MY BROTHER SAID HE USED TO FIGHT THERE -- 'FORE HE WENT INTO THE ARMY.
LOTTA KIDS USED TO FIGHT THERE-- SOME OF THEM EVEN GREW UP THERE... BEFORE IT CLOSED.
I KNEW THAT, MAN.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
YOU KNOW IF IT'S GONNA OPEN AGAIN? -- THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.
KINDA DOUBT IT, KID-- TIMES CHANGE, PEOPLE CHANGE...
KEEP THE EXCUSES, MAN. I HEARD 'EM.
SEE YA.
HELL, IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S GOING ROTTEN EVERYWHERE I TURN.
MAYBE I BETTER HEAD BACK HQ--
HELP
HUNH???
4

SO MUCH FOR A QUIET NIGHT OUT.
JUST AS WELL, I GUESS. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN ANY ACTION.
CAN'T LET THE WORLD FORGET ABOUT WILDCAT!
DROP THE CASE, TURKEY-- AND MAYBE WE'LL LETCHA WALK AW--
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BOYS!
FOUR OF YOU AGAINST ONE OLD MAN ISN'T A FAIR FIGHT--
--SO LET'S EVEN THE ODDS UP A BIT!
SAM, I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS CLOWN IS.
--BUT LET'S TAKE HIM!
STOMP
UNNHH
LITTLE MAN, YOU JUST MADE A BIG MISTAKE!
HE'S GOT THE KICK OF A MULE IN THAT RIGHT-- WATCH IT, ROG!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A RIGHT HOOK CAN FEEL LIKE, CREEP--
BAM!
--BUT JUST HANG AROUND-- I'LL WARM UP SOON!
GOOD LINE, MAN-- BUT I GOT EYES--
--I CAN SEE YOU'RE SLOWING UP ALREADY!
YOU'RE NOT AS GOOD AS YOU THINK YOU ARE, MAN--
--AND THAT MEANS YOU'RE DEAD!
GOT HIM, ROG?
UNNNHH...
YEAH-- BUT MOVE FAST! EVEN THE THREE OF US CAN'T HOLD HIM LONG!
ONE SLASH-- THAT'S ALL I NEED--
--KEEP HIM STILL THAT LONG, AND WE'RE HOME FREE!
WRONG MOVE, CLOWN-- NO CUTTIN' ALLOWED 'ROUND HERE!
WHAM
6

HEARD THE SCREAMING, M'STER--

--YOU NEED A HAND?

NAH--BUT I CAN USE A HOOK LIKE THAT!

KRUNCH

JOIN THE FUN!

WHAM

A FEW SECONDS LATER.

YOU KNOW, KID, I *LIKE* YOUR STYLE. YOU HAD SOME *GOOD MOVES* THERE

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST.

NO SWEAT

DON'T GET *MUCH CHANCE* TO TAKE OUT THE *GARBAGE* ROUND HERE--

--AND IT SURE FEELS *NICE* WHEN YOU CAN.

YEAH

KNOW THE FEELING.

...THE WAY HE WADED INTO THAT SLUG-FEST REMINDS ME OF HOW I STARTED--

--THE DAY I CAME IN *SWINGING* TO SAVE THE CHAMP FROM SOME HOODS--

--AND ENDED UP BECOMING *WILDCAT*-- AND THE *NEW* CHAMP.

YOU KNOW, PAL, SEEMS TO *ME* WE GOT A LOT *IN COMMON*.

NAME'S *WILDCAT* --TED GRANT TO *MY FRIENDS*, IF I HAD ANY.

CH-*CHARLIE BULLOCK*. BUT I THOUGHT YOU GUYS *NEVER* TOOK OFF YOUR MASKS.

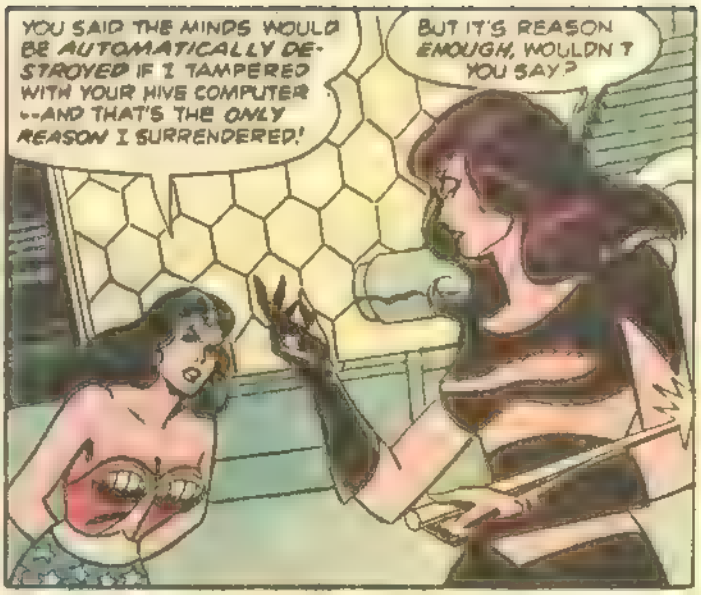
GOTTA START *SOMETIME*, CHARLIE.

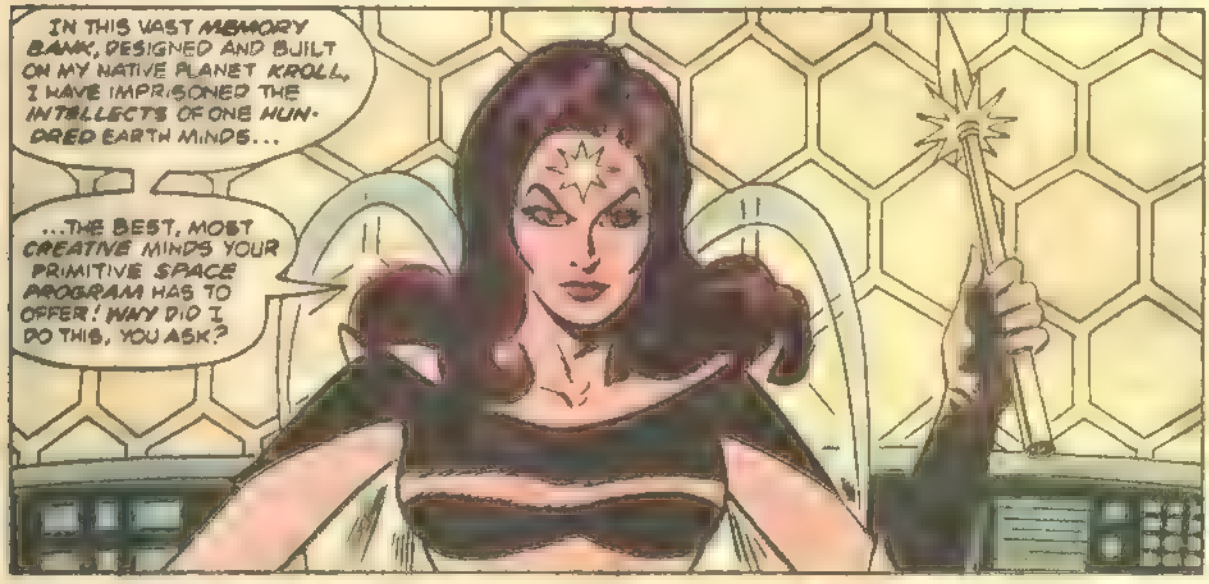
7

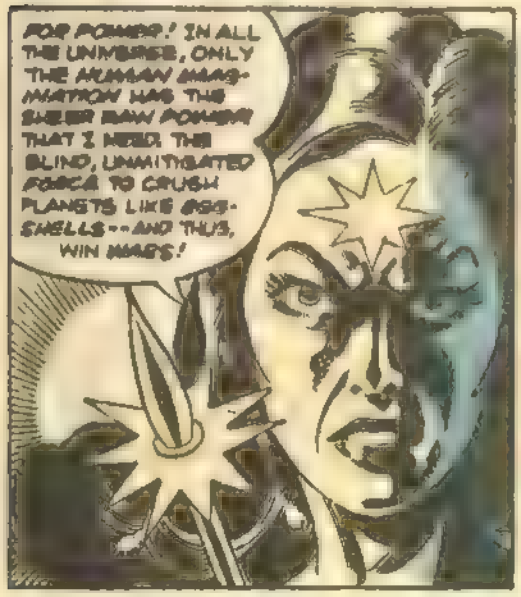
HEY, WILDCAT-- YOU'RE STILL UP?
THOUGHT THE DOCTORS SAID YOU NEEDED YOUR REST?
YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW... HAD SOME THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF...
WILDCAT! THOSE ARE YOUR SUITCASES - PACKED!
YOU CAN'T BE LEAVING US?
SURE I CAN, HUNTRESS-- JUST WATCH ME.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, NOW.. IT'S BEEN FUN.
WAY I LOOK AT IT, THE OLD CHAMP CAME OUT OF RETIREMENT TO GIVE SOME TIPS TO THE NEW GROUP OF CONTENDERS--
--AND NOW THAT YOU'VE TURNED INTO FULL-FLEDGED JUSTICE SOCIETY MEMBERS, YOU DON'T NEED A BROKEN DOWN OL' STUMBLEBUM AROUND.
HUNH.?
BESIDES, SOMEONE'S GOTTA START WORRYING ABOUT WHERE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPER-HEROES IS COMING FROM!
AN ADVENTURE INTO NEW BEGINNINGS BY:
PAUL LEVITZ - WRITER • JOE STATON - ARTIST
BEN ODA - LETTERER • ADRIENNE ROY - COLORIST
ROSS ANDRU - EDITOR

GRANTED THE WISDOM OF ATHENA, THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE BEAUTY OF APHRODITE BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND RENOUNCED HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MAN'S WORLD AS THE MOST LEGENDARY AMAZON...
Wonder Woman
CREATED BY: WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON
FADE IN: ON A SCENE OF NEAR-BLACK DESPAIR, IN THE STAR-BORN HIVE SHIP OF THE ALIEN FEMALE NAMED QUEEN BEE...
YOU WILL DO AS I COMMAND, AMAZON, OR YOU'LL NEVER SEE THE MINDS OF YOUR FRIENDS FREED FROM MY HIVE-COMPUTER!
A PITY I HAVE NO COLLAR FOR YOU TO WEAR...BUT PERHAPS MY STING WILL SUFFICE TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR STATUS, NOW THAT YOU'VE BECOME--
SLAVE OF THE QUEEN BEE
GERRY CONWAY, WRITER
JOSE DELBO } ARTISTS
JOE GIELLA }
SHELLY LEFERMAN, LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO, COLORIST
ROSS ANDRU, EDITOR

HAVE YOUR PLEASURE, WITCH YOU WON OUR LITTLE BATTLE, BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU SWORE THAT I COULDN'T RELEASE THE MINDS YOU'D CAPTURED WITH YOUR ALIEN BEE SWARM!*
*BRIEF PRECIS OF OUR PREVIOUS STORY.--ROSS.


YOU SAID THE MINDS WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY DESTROYED IF I TAMPERED WITH YOUR HIVE COMPUTER --AND THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I SURRENDERED!
BUT IT'S REASON ENOUGH, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?


IN THIS VAST MEMORY BANK, DESIGNED AND BUILT ON MY NATIVE PLANET KROLL, I HAVE IMPRISONED THE INTELLECTS OF ONE HUNDRED EARTH MINDS...
...THE BEST, MOST CREATIVE MINDS YOUR PRIMITIVE SPACE PROGRAM HAS TO OFFER! WHY DID I DO THIS, YOU ASK?


FOR POWER! IN ALL THE UNIVERSE, ONLY THE HUMAN IMAGINATION HAS THE SHEER RAW POWER THAT I NEED. THE BLIND, UNMITIGATED FORCE TO CRUSH PLANETS LIKE EGG-SHELLS--AND THUS, WIN WARS!

FOR YOU SEE, WONDER WOMAN, MY AMBITIONS RANGE FAR BEYOND THE PLANET KROLL... I ENVISION MYSELF AS MORE THAN A QUEEN... AS AN EMPRESS, RULING A GALACTIC COURT... AN EMPIRE I MUST BUILD PIECE BY PIECE...
...WITH THE INADVERTANT HELP OF YOUR WORLD!
2

DURING MY LAST VISIT TO THIS BACKWATER PLANET,* I DISCOVERED THE FANTASTIC ENERGIES PRESENT IN THE HUMAN MIND...AND I SWORE THAT SOMEDAY I WOULD LEARN HOW TO HARNESS THOSE ENERGIES FOR MY USE...
*JLA #131 & 132. --ROSS
THAT DAY HAS COME! AT FIRST, I THOUGHT ONLY TO HARNESS THE MENTAL POWERS OF EARTH'S BRIGHTEST INDIVIDUALS -- BUT NOW, I SEE I MADE ONE ERROR!
I WAS UNAMBITIOUS! WHY STOP WITH THE GREATEST INTELLECTS? WHY NOT TAKE THEM ALL?
NO! YOU'RE MAD --MONSTROUS!
BY THE GODDESS ATHENA, I RESCIND MY SURRENDER--
RRRRIP
--YOU MUST BE DESTROYED AT ANY COST!
HOW SADLY I'VE UNDERESTIMATED YOU, AMAZON!
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED-- YOU WOULD NEVER SACRIFICE THE HUMAN RACE FOR THE LIVES OF YOUR FRIENDS! A FAULTY JUDGMENT ON MY PART...
3

...A MISJUDGMENT THAT IS EASILY CORRECTED...
...WITH THE AID OF MY FRIENDS!
YOUR BEES!
BZZZZZZZ
I DEFEATED YOUR SWARM ONCE, WITCH, BY PLAYING A VARIATION OF "BULLETS AND BRACELETS"-- WHY DO YOU THINK I WON'T DO SO AGAIN?
BZZZZ-
BCHANG
BECAUSE YOU WON'T HAVE THE CHANCE! BEFORE, YOU FOUGHT THEM ALONE!
NOW, YOU FIGHT US ALL-- TOGETHER!
IEEEEE

NOW, MY LOVELIES -- STING HER! STEAL HER MIND, AS YOU STOLE THE MINDS OF THOSE SHE HOLDS DEAR!
STING, MY LOVELIES! STING! LET YOUR VENOM SLIP THROUGH HER VEINS! LET HER HEART POUND WITH PAIN! LET HER THOUGHTS SWIRL, HER SIGHT DIM.
LET HER DIE... LET HER DIE...
LET HER DIE...
...A MIRACLE SHE DIDN'T DIE! I'M TOLD SHE WAS FOUND IN THE DESERT A HUNDRED MILES NORTH OF HOUSTON... AN AIR FORCE HELICOPTER, INVESTIGATING A SIGHTING OF A U.F.O.
...AS I SAY, IT'S A MIRACLE SHE'S ALIVE...
...BUT HOW LONG SHE CAN STAY ALIVE, WITH OVER A THOUSAND BEE STINGS EMBEDDED IN HER SKIN, ONLY GOD CAN KNOW!
OH, BILL, I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE HER LYING THERE ...SO HELPLESS!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, STACY. WE OWE HER OUR LIVES*...AND THERE'S NOT A DAMN THING WE CAN DO TO SAVE HER...
*SHOWN LAST ISSUE, TOO.--ROSS

STRANGELY, THE *ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAMS* SHOW A HIGH LEVEL OF *BRAIN ACTIVITY*, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S IN A *COMATOSE STATE*...

...BUT WHAT *SORT* OF BRAIN ACTIVITY... AND WHETHER IT MEANS SHE STILL HAS A *CHANCE*...WE JUST CAN'T *SAY*...

SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN THE CONFINES OF HER MIND WONDER WOMAN HEARS THE WELL-BRED WORDS OF AUDRESSOR STONE, AND A PART OF HER SMILES--

--FOR SHE IS ALIVE, AND SOMEWHERE IN THAT SPECIAL PLACE WE CALL THE SOUL, SHE BATTLES TO HOLD ONTO HER LIFE-- AGAINST FORCES BEYOND OUR IMAGINING!

GREAT HERA, LEND ME *STRENGTH*! I KNOW THIS BATTLE EXISTS ONLY *HERE*, IN MY *SUBCONSCIOUS MIND* --THAT THESE *GIANT BEES* ARE MERE *SYMBOLS* FOR THE REALITY OF THE *VENOM* EATING AT MY HEART--

--BUT STILL, I DON'T *DARE* LOSE THIS BATTLE, OR I MIGHT *ALSO* LOSE THE *WAR*!

SSSLASH

ON PARADISE ISLAND, WE AMAZONS HAVE DEVELOPED IMMUNITIES TO MANY DISEASES, INCLUDING SMALL DOSAGES OF BEE VENOM!
I ONLY PRAY TO MY NAMESAKE, GODDESS DIANA, THAT THE NATURAL IMMUNITY-- AND MY WILL TO SURVIVE-- WILL BE ENOUGH--
BZZZAM
--FOR IF THEY ARE NOT--
--MY LIFE WILL BE OVER--
SSHHWI ISH
--AND HUMANITY WILL BE LOST!
AT THAT INSTANT, WHERE THE LAST WISPS OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE SURRENDER TO THE COLD VACUUM OF SPACE...
WONDER WOMAN'S SENSE OF SELF PROVED TOO STRONG FOR MY SWARM TO STEAL HER MIND, BUT IT HARDLY MATTERS NOW...
BY NOW, SHE LIES DEAD FROM A THOUSAND STINGS... ONE LESS FOE TO OPPOSE ME! AND ONCE I HAVE DEALT WITH THAT CURSED SATELLITE RISING OVER THE PLANETARY HORIZON, THERE SHALL BE NONE LEFT TO DENY ME MY DESIRE...

IN THAT SATELLITE, AT THIS PRECISE *MOMENT*, THE EARTH'S OWN *JUSTICE LEAGUE* SITS IN DELIBERATION--*UNWITTING TARGETS* FOR MY *STING!*

THIS SHALL BE THE *FIRST TEST* OF THE *HIVE-COMPUTER'S POWER!* AND FOR HUMANITY'S SELF-STYLED *SUPER-HEROES...*

...IT SHALL BE *THE LAST!*

HMMMMMMM

KKRACHOOM

THEY CRY OUT IN SUPRISE, THESE GATHERED HEROES, BUT ONLY FOR THE SMALLEST FRACTION OF AN INSTANT--

--AND THEN DARKNESS CLAIMS THEM, THEIR CONSCIOUSNESSES BLOWN OUT LIKE CANDLES IN A WIND...
I WIN! I WIN! DESTINY HAS EMBRACED ME! FATE IS MY SLAVE!
NOW I GATHER THE MINDS OF EARTH, A HARVEST OF SOULS, AND WHEN I AM DONE, NOT EVEN THE MADDEST DREAM WILL BE BEYOND ME!
WHILE, ON EARTH...
PROFESSOR STONE, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING? SHE'S IN CONVULSIONS!
IT'S THE VENOM-- IT'S STRANGLING HER HEART! PERHAPS A STIMULANT...
"...IT MIGHT HELP HER TO FIGHT BACK..."
NO--AT THIS STAGE OF THE STRUGGLE, A STIMULANT WOULD KILL ME! BUT HOW CAN I STOP THEM? I CAN HEAR THEM-- BUT THEY CAN'T HEAR ME!
MERCIFUL MINERVA, IF I DON'T BREAK FREE OF THIS COMA QUICKLY, ALL MY EFFORTS WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!
HERA, GIVE ME STRENGTH--
--HELP ME LIVE!
9

THE BEST WAY TO ADMINISTER THE STIMULANT IS BY INJECTING IT INTO THE I. V. TUBE! GIVE ME JUST ANOTHER MOMENT, AND--
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, PROFESSOR.
WH-WHAT?
WONDER WOMAN --YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
BUT--WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DYING!
PUT THE EMPHASIS ON THE PAST TENSE, STACY! I M WEAK, BUT THE WORST IS OVER! I'D STAY TO EXPLAIN...
...BUT I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS ELSEWHERE!
WONDER WOMAN-- THAT'S A TEN STORY DROP TO THE GROUND!
..BUT ONLY A FIVE FOOT DROP TO THE WING OF MY INVISIBLE ROBOT PLANE!
I SUMMONED IT VIA TELE-PATHY WHILE I WAS GETTING OUT OF BED! SORRY IF I STARTLED YOU!
FORGET IT... SURPRISES LIKE THIS WE'LL TAKE ANYDAY!

SECONDS LATER, FAR ABOVE...
A TOUCH ON THIS LEVER, AND I WILL ACTIVATE A LARGER VERSION OF THE SONIC DEVICE WHICH MY SWARM USES TO STEAL HUMAN MINDS!
BUT THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF BEING IMPLANTED SURGICALLY IN MY BEES, IT IS A PART OF THIS HIVE SHIP--
--AND INSTEAD OF STEALING A SINGLE MIND, IT WILL STEAL BILLIONS!
I DON'T THINK SO, QUEEN BEE...I THINK YOUR LITTLE GAME'S FINISHED, AND YOU'VE LOST!
WONDER WOMAN -- AND MY BEES!
THEY'RE NOT DEAD, QUEEN. MERELY STUNNED BY THE VIBRATIONS FROM MY SPINNING LASSO! EARLIER, I USED MY LASSO TO LURE THE BEES*
THIS NEW USE ONLY JUST OCCURRED TO ME WHEN I ARRIVED HERE IN MY ROBOT PLANE!
*LAST ISSUE. --ROSS
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T THINK OF IT BEFORE..
..AND I AM SORRY I DIDN'T MAKE CERTAIN YOU WERE DEAD! AND EVEN SORRIER THAT I LEFT YOU YOUR LASSO-- A MISTAKE I NOW CORRECT!
THIS TIME, I WILL KILL YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS!
LADY, YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY!

SWEATING, STRAINING, SILENT, THE TWO WOMEN STRUGGLE FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE HOURS, BUT IS SCARCELY MORE THAN MINUTES...
THOUGH ONE IS AN AMAZON, WITH AN AMAZON'S INHUMAN STRENGTH, THE OTHER IS A MADWOMAN, WITH ALL THE POWER OF THE INSANE, AND SLOWLY, SHE FORCES DIANA DOWN, FINGERS CLAWING HER THROAT, KILLING HER...
AT LAST, AS THE BLOOD POUNDS IN HER SKULL, THE AMAZON THROWS ALL HER STRENGTH INTO ONE LAST DESPERATE EFFORT, AND SUDDENLY SHE IS FREE...
THE QUEEN BEE, HOWEVER, IS NOT SO FORTUNATE...
HELA'S HOUNDS! SHE SMASHED INTO HER MIND-STEALING DEVICE... ALL OF ITS POWER IS ERUPTING THROUGH HER, TEARING AWAY HER MIND!
SHRORROM
SHE SOUGHT THE SOULS OF A WORLD... AND IN THE SEEKING, SHE LOST HER OWN.
EPILOGUE: A SHORT TIME LATER, AFTER THE UNCONSCIOUS JUSTICE LEAGUERS HAVE BEEN REVIVED, AND THE HIVE SHIP HAS LANDED ONCE MORE IN THE DESERT OUTSIDE HOUSTON...
THE SCIENTISTS HAVE THEIR MINDS BACK, BUT I WONDER --CAN THEY EVER BE THE SAME? TO LOSE YOUR SOUL MUST BE A TERRIBLE THING...
ONLY TIME CAN HELP THEM...TIME, AND THE HEALING POWER OF THE HUMAN HEART...
THE END.

HE WAS BORN ARTHUR CURRY, HALF-BREED SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, AND ROSE TO BECOME RULER OF THE MIGHTY SEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. EVENTUALLY HE RELINQUISHED THAT THRONE, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO REMAIN THE DAUNTLESS DEFENDER OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS -- THE VALIANT SUPER-HERO CALLED...
AQUAMAN
BENEATH THE WAVES OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, THE FORMER KING OF ATLANTIS SWIMS TOWARD HIS FORMER KINGDOM...
SINCE IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE--THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO VISIT KING VULKO. I HAVE A FEW HOURS TO SPARE AND--
SUDDENLY...
¡UNGHHH!¡ SOME TREMENDOUS FORCE DRIVING ME DOWN-- GOING TO CRASH ON THOSE ROCKS!
THAT DEADLY UNDERSEA FORCE IS ONLY THE BAREST HINT OF THE TROUBLE AQUAMAN WILL FACE AS HE FINDS ATLANTIS PLUNGED INTO A BATTLE AGAINST...
INVADERS FROM ABOVE
BOB ROZAKIS WRITER
DON NEWTON & BOB SMITH ARTISTS
SHELLY LEFFINGWELL LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST

GOT TO CURL UP INTO A CANNONBALL POSITION...
...PROTECT MYSELF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...
..AND TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE IMPACT ON MY SHOULDER!
UNNGHH!
NO BROKEN BONES--BUT MY SHOULDER WILL BE SORE FOR A LONG WHILE!
STILL CAN'T FIGHT THAT BIZARRE FORCE--IT'S KEEPING ME GLUED TO THE SEA FLOOR!
BUT IF I CAN'T FIGHT THE FORCE, PERHAPS I CAN SWIM PERPENDICULARLY TO IT--AND GET OUT OF RANGE!
MADE IT--BUT THAT FORCE IS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO ATLANTIS!
GOT TO FIND ITS SOURCE BEFORE THE CITY IS DAMAGED!
2

DETOX
I'LL WARN THE CAPTAIN THAT HE'S TOO CLOSE TO ATLANTIS AND--
--GREAT NEPTUNE! THAT'S NOT LIKE ANY OIL-DRILL I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE!
THERE IT IS-- SOME NEW KIND OF SHIP! MUST BE DRILLING FOR OIL!
AHOY, DETOX! WHO IS IN COMMAND?
I AM, AQUAMAN! STAVROS MARKOS... IS THE NAME... I OWN THIS VESSEL!
MARKOS?!? --THE GREEK SHIPPING TYCOON WITH A LARGER FLEET THAN ONASSIS AND NIARCHOS PUT TOGETHER!
I'M ASKING THAT YOU MOVE YOUR OPERATION TO ANOTHER LOCATION! YOU'RE ALMOST DIRECTLY ABOVE THE CITY OF ATLANTIS!
I'LL MOVE NOWHERE!
OPERATION: DETOX HAS BEEN APPROVED AND SANCTIONED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THIS POSITION WAS AGREED UPON!
"OPERATION DETOX"--?
A PROCESS BY WHICH WE WILL REMOVE ALL THE POLLUTANTS WITH WHICH WE HAVE FOULED THE SEAS! I MADE MY FORTUNE FROM THE OCEAN... AND NOW I PLAN TO REPAY HER.
IT'S A PROGRAM YOU SHOULD REGARD HIGHLY, AQUAMAN!
I DO--

--BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER LOCATIONS TO SET IT UP!
NOW IF YOU WON'T LEAVE THIS AREA UNDER YOUR OWN POWER...
..I'LL BE FORCED TO MOVE YOU WITH WHALE POWER!
I FORBID YOU TO DO SO!
YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
I'LL SUE YOU! YOU'LL BE TRIED BEFORE A WORLD COURT AS AN ENEMY OF THIS PLANET!
ODD! MARKOS WAS CERTAINLY INCENSED! BUT WITH MILLIONS OF SQUARE MILES OF OCEAN--WHY DID HE HAVE TO CHOOSE THIS PARTICULAR LOCATION?
PERHAPS VULKO KNOWS SOMETHING!
4

BUT IF THE CURRENT RULER OF THE UNDERSEA KINGDOM KNOWS ABOUT OPERATION: DETOX, HE CERTAINLY WAS UNAWARE OF ITS CONSEQUENCES...

I DIDN'T ACT SOON ENOUGH! THE CITY *HAS* BEEN DAMAGED...AND IT APPEARS THAT THE *POWER SYSTEM* HAS BEEN KNOCKED OUT!

THEY'LL NEED SOME *LIGHT* TO AID IN RESCUE OPERATIONS--

--AND *LANTERN-FISH* ARE JUST THE FINNY FRIENDS TO DO THE JOB!

AQUAMAN-- THANK NEPTUNE YOU'VE COME!

KING VULKO'S FORCES NEED YOUR AID! THERE ARE SURFACE-DWELLERS *ROBBING* THE CITY!

SAY NO MORE!

AIR-BREATHING LOOTERS STRIKING JUST WHEN THE CITY'S POWER SYSTEM IS KNOCKED OUT--

--IT *CAN'T* BE A COINCIDENCE!

LOOTERS!! FIGHTING WITH THE GUARDS OUTSIDE THE CITY'S MUSEUM!
HERE'S WHERE I TURN THE TIDE AGAINST THEM!
YIIII! I FORGOT ABOUT MY INJURED SHOULDER!
AQUAMAN--
WHA--?!?
FHOOOSH
--WATCH OUT! YAARGHH!
6

THIS GUARD SAVED MY LIFE-- BUT MY WOULD-BE ASSASSIN IS TRYING AGAIN!
SORRY, CHARLIE--
--ONE SHOT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU!
WHOOOF!
AQUAMAN-- SHARKS!
NOW, IF YOUR FRIENDS WANT TO SURRENDER--
YAAAHH! NO!!!
THE BLOOD OF THE WOUNDED GUARD MUST HAVE ATTRACTED THEM-- BUT I'LL PUT THEM TO GOOD USE!
7

THOSE MAN-EATERS WILL TAKE THE LOOTERS BACK WHERE THEY BE-LONG...AND KEEP THEM THERE--!

THERE ARE MORE SURFACE-MEN ATTACKING KING VULKO'S PALACE!

FOLLOW ME--WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM! AND I KNOW JUST THE "ASSISTANTS" WE'LL NEED!

SHORTLY...

--AND IF YOU DO NOT TURN CONTROL OF THE CITY OVER TO US IMMEDIATELY, YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO CHANGE YOUR MIND LATER!

YOU WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME RUNNING THIS CITY, FRIEND--ESPECIALLY AFTER YOUR AIR TANK RAN OUT!

AQUAMAN! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER OR FATBOY HERE BUYS IT!

DON'T DO ANYTHING HASTY! IF NOTHING ELSE, KILLING VULKO WOULD RUIN YOUR CHANCES OF LEAVING ATLANTIS ALIVE!

ATLANTEANS BELIEVE IN CAPITAL PUNISH-MENT!

YOU TALK BIG, FISH-MAN! BUT WE AREN'T PLANNING ON LEAVING ANY WITNESSES TO TESTIFY AGAINST US!

8

WHAT--?!?

HEY--!

I KNEW THIS CITY COULD COUNT ON ITS FORMER RULER!

FINE WORK, OLD FRIEND!

WORK THAT ISN'T FINISHED YET, VULKO!

THERE STILL REMAINS THE MATTER OF CLOSING DOWN THIS OPERATION!

JUST AS I THOUGHT--MARKOS' SHIP IS BACK!
I'LL BE A ONE-MAN BOARDING PARTY--AND HERE COMES THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE!
AQUAMAN, I'M ORDERING YOU OFF MY SHIP RIGHT NOW--OR I'LL THROW YOU IN THE BRIG!
SO YOU CAN "BRING ME TO JUSTICE IN A WORLD COURT", MARKOS? FORGET IT!
YOU'LL BE THE ONE ON TRAIL!
I BROKE UP YOUR LITTLE FORAY INTO ATLANTIS--
--AND BROUGHT BACK QUITE A FEW WITNESSES TO TESTIFY AGAINST YOU!
BAH! YOU CALLED MY BLUFF, NOW I'LL CALL YOURS!
YOUR "CASE" WOULD BE LAUGHED OUT OF ANY COURT! WE'RE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS!
IT'S A STALEMATE, SEA KING!
PERHAPS...
...BUT YOUR OPERATION: DETOX IS WASHED UP AS A FRONT--I'LL SEE TO THAT!
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS, MARKOS!
AND YOU, AQUAMAN, HAVE NOT YET HEARD THE LAST OF ME! HAHAHAHA!
THE END...OR JUST THE BEGINNING? WATCH FUTURE ISSUES FOR THE ANSWER!

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-273

Dear Editor,

I must say that *ADVENTURE* seems to be pulling out of a post-*Aquaman* depression. He's back and UFP storyline has promise, even if Kupperberg/Newton is not Levitz/Aparo or Michelinie/Aparo. *Deadman* and the *JSA* could scarcely be improved. And since you've decided to divorce the *Wonder Woman* comic features from the tv show, she's looking better (if possible). Which leaves *The Flash*, who I have not liked since I was about ten or eleven years old. Four out of five isn't bad.

Like Beppe Sabatini I hope this format lasts until issue 500. At the current bimonthly rate, that will be the August, 1984 issue, but I doubt it will be 68 pages, no ads and a $1 price.

Hope I'm wrong.

Gary Norman
P.O. Box 954
Prentiss, MS 39474

Given inflation we imagine you're right in predicting eventual change, Gary, but we hope that whatever format we go to, we'll always be able to give you the best material around.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

I found *ADVENTURE* #461 to be almost unbelieveably bad. If it weren't for the cancellation of *ALLSTAR COMICS, SHOWCASE* and possibly *AQUAMAN, I dread to think what else might have been included in this issue.*

The Flash story was almost as boring as the character himself. I'd personally like to nominate the *Wonder Woman* story as the worst drawn and written story of the year. What a waste of space! You should have thrown a reprint in instead of that mess.

To say I was disappointed with the issue would be an understatement. I did like the *Deadman* and *Justice Society* stories, but I worry about what's going to happen to *ADVENTURE* when your backlog runs out.

Good luck, and hopefully I'll be looking forward to the next issue.

Charles Reiter Jr.
Rockford, IL 61107

We're confused by your worry, Charles. We've used a total of four stories originally intended for other mags in this one: the two-part JSA story "Only Legends Live Forever", the Aquman story in #460 ("The Hunt"), and now, the Deadman tale in this issue, which was scheduled for SHOWCASE. Everything else has been freshly bought for this mag. So even if you didn't care for the Flash and Wonder Woman stories in #461, you liked two tales bought for this title, and one story that's pretty representative of what the series is like now that's in ADVENTURE.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

What a long-awaited treasure was *ADVENTURE* #461! Not only did it see The *Justice Society* re-activated, but it gave us *Wonder Woman*'s kid sis, *Wonder Girl*—the *only Teen Titan* who had not been seen or heard from since that super-group's magazine bit the dust.

The *JSA* is as exciting as ever; due, no doubt, to the fact that Paul Levitz and Joe Staton remain the team *behind* the team. It was nice to see *Robin* playing an active role once again—no doubt this is due to the fact that "Only Legends Live Forever!" involves Earth II's *Batman*. Please, fellows—let's not retire Richard Grayson again when the focus of this series moves elsewhere. Keep him on the semi-regular roster. Speaking of which, how about adding the heretofore unseen *Spectre* to that same roster?

The *Wonder Woman* tale was, despite the presence of *Wonder Girl*, a large disappointment. Donna spent most of her time unconscious while Diana fought a cardboard villain whose costume, source of powers and motive were all too ridiculous to be taken seriously. The absurd 'any woman can be a wonder' speech with which *Wonder Girl* concluded the story sounded like it was lifted directly from one of *Wonder Woman's* worst 1940's adventures. Granted, a basic and undeniable truth lurked in that message, but it was presented with such corn and so closely on the heels of the destruction of *Headmaster-Mind* that it lost its effectiveness. The only good point contained within the entire adventure was Donna's decision to resume her *WG* career. I hope that we readers will be privileged enough to share that career with Donna. I hope she will be granted her own series or will make frequent appearances in *WONDER WOMAN* and *ADVENTURE*.

Scott Gibson
2711 South Pinehurst Dr.
Evergreen, CO 80439

Sorry to say there are no plans at present for future Wonder Girl appearances, besides the recent Batman-Teen Titans team-up in BRAVE & BOLD. But if enough readers write in, we might even be moved to give her a solo try-out.

ANOTHER EXCITING AQUAMAN ADVENTURE:
"INVADERS FROM ABOVE"
HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!
TO SAVE CENTRAL CITY, FLASH MUST LEARN TO RUN IN A WORLD TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN!
WHO IS THIS TEENAGER-- THAT STEPPED INTO AN ALLEY FIGHT AND FINISHED THE JOB WILDCAT BEGAN??
THANKS, KID--IT WOULD'VE BEEN CURTAINS WITHOUT YA!
YOUR PUNY LASSO CAN'T SAVE YOU-- WONDER WOMAN!
NO MATTER WHAT WONDER WOMAN DOES TO RESIST-- SHE CANNOT ESCAPE HER FATE AS "SLAVE of the QUEEN BEE"
DELBO & GIORDANO